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MR. SUMNER AND THE ALABAMA QUESTION.

It is related of a certain humorous Scotch blacksmith that he was wont to boast that he had been blessed with an excellent memory, for, said he, "If I owe aught to anyone, I forget that; while if anyone owes aught to me, I remember that; if I wrong anyone, I forget that; but if anyone wrongs me, I keep good mind of that." The people of the United States, if Mr. Sumner be a true exponent of their feelings, appear to be very much like the Caledonian son of Vulcan. The duty they owe to others, they forget; but of the obligations due to them—or which they fancy due to them—they claim the fulfilment to the uttermost, and even something beyond. In fact, American policy seems to be that the Yankees are entitled to do whatever they please, let who may be offended or injured thereby; but that no one else must do anything that in the slightest degree trenches upon what Americans choose to consider their interest or their honour. The Great Republic may appropriate as many horses as it may happen to fancy; but no other nation—and especially Great Britain—must even take a peep at the hedge, much less look over it. The United States cannot be wrong, whatever they do; and no other people can be right, if what it does displeases the followers of the Stars and Stripes. In any discussion in which the States are involved, all that tells against their opponent may be reiterated, amplified, exaggerated, distorted, *usque ad nauseam*; but not a word can be listened to that militates in said opponent's favour. Practically, that is about what Mr. Sumner's elaborate reasoning on the Alabama question comes to; and though this may be a very convenient theory for the Americans, few among them—scarcely even Mr. Sumner, one would

think—can suppose that it will be acquiesced in by other nations.

It is generally understood that a large portion of American oratory is simply addressed to Buncombe—is merely sound and fury, signifying nothing, and therefore unworthy serious attention. But this can hardly be predicated of the utterances of a man who, like Mr. Sumner, occupies the semi-official and highly responsible position of Chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the Senate, especially when

those utterances are adopted by that august body and published under its authority; and when, furthermore, they are followed by the rejection of a treaty solemnly concluded by the representative of the United States Government in this country. Mr. Sumner's speech, therefore, must be regarded as something more than a mere piece of stump oratory; it must be taken as embodying the sentiments of at least a large majority of the speaker's countrymen. And, if so, to what conclusion does it point, save that a peaceful

settlement of the Alabama dispute is impossible, because not desired by one of the parties to it! Out of that question, again, there arises another—namely, why is it that the American people do not wish to have their dispute with Great Britain settled amicably? To which the only plausible answer is, that they have ulterior views which this open quarrel may subserve by facilitating or covering their accomplishment. What these ulterior views are, we may gather from Mr. Chandler's motion in the Senate, and from the deliverances of some at least of the New York newspapers. The cession of Canada, and probably all our other possessions on the American continent, is the equivalent to be asked by-and-by for a quittance in full of the Alabama claims. Hence Mr. Sumner's laboured effort to pile up the agony—we mean the sum of the damage sustained by the United States by the action of Great Britain during the late civil war; hence the distortion of facts, the misrepresentation of motives, the exaggeration of the injuries inflicted by Captain Semmes and his colleagues, the far-fetched plea that our action prolonged the war at least a couple of years, and all the rest of it. The *quid* must be made to bear at least a seeming proportion to the *quo* demanded; the



"THE POOR ORPHAN MUSICIAN."—AFTER A PICTURE BY M. LOUIS LASSALLE. (COPIED BY PERMISSION OF MESSRS. GOUPILO.)

American claims must be inflated so as to cover the price to be asked for their settlement. The Monroe doctrine has to be carried out so far as the expulsion of Great Britain from American soil is concerned; and the wrongs, real or fancied, inflicted by her upon the United States during the war are to be used as a pretext. If we wrong the American people and Government by these suppositions, we are sorry for it, and we hope our offence—if it be an offence to speak plainly on a grave matter of national interest—will not be imputed to the whole British people and be added as another item to Mr. Sumner's bill against them. But, really, we can see no other reasonable solution of the course that gentleman, his colleagues, and his countrymen are taking on this question.

That the Americans are thoroughly inconsistent and illogical in their reasoning in the pending discussion is to them, of course, a matter of no moment whatever. Logic and consistency go but a small way in deterring people from following a course on which they are bent. When men have determined on doing a thing, they will do it, logic and consistency to the contrary notwithstanding. These things troubled not the fox in the quarrel he fastened on the lamb in the matter of muddling the stream; and neither will they incommode our friends the Yankees—we use the name in no offensive sense, but simply as the shortest, and therefore most convenient, that occurs to us—in carrying out their so-called "manifest destiny" by the absorption of British America.

But it is worth while, all the same, to point out wherein Yankee inconsistency lies, if not for their conviction, at least for our justification. Mr. Sumner's charges against Great Britain—or some of them, for it is difficult to keep them all in remembrance—are that a portion of our people and press sympathised with the Confederacy in its efforts to break up the Union and start in life as an independent State; that our Government, recognising the fact that war existed in America when a separate Government had been formed, when armies were marshalled in the field, and several battles had been fought, accorded belligerent rights to the respective combatants (for the Queen's proclamation applied in the letter to the North as well as to the South, though in spirit and in fact it told most severely against the latter); that we permitted the Alabama to escape from our ports, by which act the commerce of the United States was annihilated and the interests of American merchants damaged to an incalculable extent; that by our countenance, sympathy, and encouragement, we enabled the Southerners to carry on the war for at least two years longer than they would otherwise have been enabled to do, whereby the United States sustained damage to the extent of we know not how many hundreds of millions of dollars or pounds—it is immaterial which. Now, passing over the fact that the fathers and grandfathers of the present generation of Americans accepted not only sympathy but direct, active aid in men, money, and warlike materials from France, Holland, and Spain when the colonies were in rebellion against the mother country, we answer that the United States officially, and United States citizens individually, have on various occasions acted in the same way, but with less justification, as Great Britain and her citizens did during the late war. The United States sympathised with and aided Mexico and the South American Republics in throwing off their allegiance to Spain; they sympathised with and aided the Texans in severing their connection with Mexico, and found their profit in the transaction by absorbing Texas into the Union; they sympathised with, if they did not actively aid, Hungary in her war with Austria; in the old Canadian rebellion they not only did all they could to stir up the revolt, but many of their citizens took an active part in the fighting and others furnished the rebels with money and munitions of war; that only recently persons calling themselves American citizens have invaded Canada, and there murdered British subjects on their own soil; that even now Americans are actively engaged in fomenting rebellion in Ireland; that on more than one occasion citizens of the United States have attempted to excite rebellion and perpetrate invasion in Cuba; that only a few weeks since the popular branch of the United States Legislature passed a resolution calling upon the President to recognise, not merely the belligerency, but the independence, of the Cuban rebels against the rule of Spain, and promising him support in any measures he might take to give effect to that resolution; and that, finally and particularly, the United States themselves recognised the belligerency of the South, by blockading their ports and exchanging prisoners of war with them, before any step whatever was taken in the matter by the British Government.

These, we think, are amply sufficient instances to convict the Americans of inconsistency in their charges against Great Britain; and though some of the acts we have enumerated were those of United States citizens, and not of the United States Government, that does not affect the argument; because, if Great Britain as a nation is to be held responsible, as Mr. Sumner says she must, not only for the acts, but for the feelings and the words of her citizens, the United States as a nation must also be held responsible for the deeds—we take no account of their wishes and words—of their individual citizens. The Americans are thus condemned out of their own mouths and estopped from action in the Alabama question by precedents of their own setting. This, however, as we have said, will have no influence on their action. If it is Canada they want, they

will endeavour to effect their object in spite of principles, precedents, and international law and practice; and it is well that we on our part should bear this fact in mind, and be governed accordingly.

POOR ORPHAN!

Do our readers like illustrations that tell their own story? We think they do, and that ever so little help from description often suffices to place them *en rapport* with the artist on whose work they look. Surely, then, this picture by M. Lassalle requires little explanation. Let it preach its own sermon, open our hearts in sympathy with its own suggestion of pity for the widow and the fatherless; it will have done good work then; and the harp that stands there by the doorway where the little one seeks shelter may represent the harp of old that calmed and melted the fierce Israelitish King.

IRISH POULTRY.—Ireland, as a poultry country, must be looking up. At the monster exhibition held last month in New York (a show including not only birds but even cats), four gold medals, two silver medals, and various money prizes were awarded to Mr. James C. Cooper, of Cooper-hill, Limerick. This gentleman, who has already done wonders in multiplying prize poultry in Ireland, forwarded to New York nine tricos of fowls, and only two of them were hors de combat when they arrived at the other side of the Atlantic. It is certainly a feat to have won against birds which had no sea voyage to ruin their condition. "Erin go bragh!"—*Chamber of Agriculture Journal*.

THE MAYOR OF CORK.—Mr. Daniel O'Sullivan, Mayor of Cork, is a very eccentric gentleman. He affects ultra-patriotic sentiments, applauds and fraternises with the Fenians, and quarrels with his brethren on the bench and in the council room. On occasion of a supper given to Warren and Costello, two of the released Fenians, a few evenings ago, the Mayor is reported to have made some rather strong remarks, declaring, among other things, that he regarded O'Farrell, who attempted to assassinate the Duke of Edinburgh in Australia, as a noble patriot and martyr. This gave great offence; and last Saturday a brother magistrate refused to let the Mayor have the charge-sheet in the police court, when a scuffle ensued, and the sheet was torn. On Sunday morning Mr. O'Sullivan, on his own authority, released all the persons in the hands of the police charged with drunkenness and disorder; and on Monday morning he attended the police court an hour and a half before the usual time, and repeated his performance of the previous day. All this has excited very strong feeling in the city, and hence the measures proposed by the Government to relieve his Worship of his magisterial duties.

THE CAB QUESTION.—On Monday's deputation from the Society of Arts, Adelphi, waited upon the Home Secretary in reference to the cab question. They were introduced by Lord H. G. Lennox, M.P., who said that at the Great Exhibition of 1862, which the society had originated, their attention had been drawn by foreigners to the disgraceful character of the cab system of the metropolis. The special deficiencies of our cabs and our system were dwelt upon by his Lordship, Mr. Cole; Mr. W. Egerton, M.P.; Mr. Seymour Teulon, Sir D. Cooper, &c. The Home Secretary, in reply, said:—"I think the great object of the deputation is to get rid of the disgrace, which is truly said to exist, of having the worst description of cabs of any capital in Europe, to improve them, and also not only to raise the general standard of cab accommodation, but to have some diversity of accommodation. All I can say is that the subject is now under the consideration of the Government. We hope to be able soon to bring forward a bill upon this subject, which, I trust, may pass this Session; and, by the important assistance rendered by the Chancellor of the Exchequer, in his Budget, if it should be approved, I do not despair of being able from this year to date a very marked improvement in these vehicles."

WHAT THE LORDS MEAN TO DO.—A step of considerable gravity has, according to trustworthy information which we have received, been decided on by a certain section of noble Lords, whose sympathies are with the Opposition in the matter of the Irish Church Bill. At a private meeting of Conservative Peers, held on Friday last—not, indeed, at the residence of Lord Derby, but at the house of an Earl whose name is scarcely less of a synonym for Tory championship—it was agreed that, in view of the insignificant modifications which Mr. Gladstone's measure is apparently destined to receive in the House of Commons, as well as of the intentions of the Ministry, so far as they have been elicited in the recent debate in the House of Lords on the subject of land tenure, it will be advisable to move, when the Irish Church Bill is presented to the Upper House, that all consideration of it should be postponed till a complete scheme of their reforms affecting Ireland has been elicited from the Ministry, and "that the Lords, as a body, deprecate the piecemeal legislation, the hole-and-corner policy, which the Premier has adopted." It is stated that Lord Westbury is the creative and originating spirit of this determination, and that his Lordship will most probably be selected as the propounder of the motion.—*Echoes*.

THE SWISS TIR NATIONAL.—The following letter of invitation to the Swiss Tir National has been addressed by the managers of the festival to the English shooting companies:—"In the month of July of the present year Switzerland celebrates its twenty-third federal shooting festival at Zug, in the smallest canton of the Swiss Confederation. We herewith most cordially invite you to be present at our national gathering of marksmen, and to participate with us in the festivities and honours of the occasion. Great Britain has been at all times on very friendly terms with Switzerland. When, in the great troubles of 1848, European diplomacy bore so harshly upon Switzerland, Great Britain gave many evidences of kindness and loyalty towards us. This will never be forgotten. Our marksmen especially remember the hearty reception with which you honoured them at your last shooting festival at Wimbledon. They are anxious to be afforded an occasion to reciprocate these attentions and marks of friendship, and they hope that such an opportunity will be presented at our next national shooting festival at Zug. We intend to make this shooting festival even more interesting and important than anyone preceding it in Switzerland. We beg you to advise us as early as convenient of the number of visitors which we may expect, in order that we may be enabled, so far as possible, to make the proper arrangements for their reception. The federal shooting begins on July 11 and ends with the 21st of the same month. Expecting a very numerous participation on the part of English marksmen at our national shooting festival, we are, brother marksmen, with the highest respect, your obedient servants (for the organising committee), I. F. WYSS, President; A. ZÜRCHER, Secretary.—Zug, April, 1869."

ROYAL NATIONAL LIFE-BOAT INSTITUTION.—On Thursday a meeting of this institution was held at its house, John-street, Adelphi.—Mr. Baring, M.P., in the chair. The secretary, having read the minutes of the previous meeting, rewards were ordered to be given to the crews of several life-boats of the society for various services to distressed vessels during the storms of the past month. It was also stated that the Boys surf life-boat at Calster, Norfolk, had gone off through a heavy sea, while the wind was blowing strong from R.N.E., on the 29th ult., and had remained alongside the steamer Lady Flora, of Hull, which had gone ashore amongst the breakers, and had exhibited a signal of distress. It was also reported that the Cemlyn (Anglesea) life-boat, the Sophia, had rendered valuable assistance to the schooner Emily Grey, which, it was said, would probably have become a total wreck had it not been for the life-boat men working vigorously at the vessel's pumps. The Arthur Frederick Fitzroy life-boat, at Rye, had also put off to the barque Columbia, which had struck off that place, and had assisted to get the vessel and her crew safely into Dover Harbour. The two last-named life-boats are memorial boats—the Cemlyn one being named after the late Mrs. Admiral Cator, and the Rye boat after the only son of the late Hon. Mrs. Fitzroy (née Rothschild). A reward of £11 15s. was granted to some boats' crews for putting off from the island of Walls, North Britain, and saving the entire crew of twenty-two men of the ship Canadian, of Greenock, which had been run ashore during a west-north-west gale, to save her from foundering on Pentland Firth. £5 was also voted to three men and two women who went out in a small boat and saved three out of five persons, whose boat had been capsized, during squally weather, in Straddle Sound, in the county of Galway. One man had disappeared before their arrival; but they succeeded in rescuing the four others, although one of them, unhappily, perished subsequently from the effects of his immersion. Had it not been for the two women promptly and bravely offering to take, in the face of considerable peril, an oar, the whole of the poor fellows must have perished. Various other rewards were likewise given to the crews of different shore-boats for saving life from wrecks on our coasts. Altogether, the institution has contributed this year alone to the rescue of 366 lives from different shipwrecks, in addition to having saved eight vessels from destruction. The society has now a noble fleet of 203 life-boats, and it contributes yearly to the saving of nearly 1000 lives. To maintain its efficiency an annual income of at least £20,000 is needed. Payments amounting to nearly £1200 were ordered to be made on various life-boat establishments. Captain John Boag, of the ship Evelyn, had remitted £10 to the institution from India, being one half of the balance of funds of the Shipmasters' Association recently held in Bombay. Captain Marquand, of the barque Matchless, of Guernsey, had also collected a further sum of £3 5s. in aid of the support of life-boats on the occasion of his last voyage. The late Miss E. S. Kemp, of Featherstone-street, City-road, had left the society a legacy of £100. It was decided to station life-boats at Port Isaac and Coverach, Cornwall, after those places had been visited and reported on by the inspector of life-boats; and also to place an additional life-boat in St. Bride's Bay. Reports were read from the inspector and the assistant inspector of life-boats to the institution on their recent visits to various life-boat stations on the English and Irish coasts. The proceedings then terminated.

Foreign Intelligence.

FRANCE.

In reply to a question from Count de Segur, M. de Lavalette stated in the Senate, on Friday week, that the French Government had come to no determination respecting the evacuation of Rome, and would only consider the question when the security of the Pope was assured.

The Government has given way on the question of an increase in the pensions of schoolmasters, which was recently proposed in the Chamber. The grant asked for was 250,000*fr.* (£10,000). This was opposed by the Government, which shortly afterwards brought forward its proposal for increasing the pensions of the old soldiers of the First Empire, and thereby drew down upon itself a good deal of hostile criticism. The Minister of Public Instruction now says that after a full investigation he finds he can give to the schoolmasters even more than was asked for. A decree is accordingly issued devoting to the purpose £12,000 instead of £10,000.

A new journal, called the *Rappel*, was published in Paris on Monday. It is conducted by the two sons of Victor Hugo and his son-in-law, and Victor Hugo himself is a contributor to the first number. M. Henri Rochefort, who has gained so much notoriety by his *Lanterne*, is also connected with the paper. As the *Rappel* promised from the first to be strongly in opposition to the Government, its sale in the streets was prohibited by the authorities even before it appeared. M. Victor Hugo's new novel, "L'Homme qui Rit," is given in the feuilleton of the new journal.

BELGIUM.

The party of the Right, in the Belgian Chamber, made, on Tuesday, through their leader, a declaration to the effect that they would give no opinion on the railway negotiation until further information in regard to it could be obtained, when they would raise a debate on the whole question. M. Frère-Orban replied, accepting the full responsibility for Government, and predicting that the result arrived at would be found satisfactory.

ITALY.

In Monday's sitting of the Chamber of Deputies the debate on the revenue estimates of 1869 commenced. Signor Ferrari stated the programme of the Piedmontese party, of which he is the leader. Its principal points are—Liberal government, strict administrative economy, and the firm maintenance of the national aspiration. The mission of the party of action, he said, had entirely ceased, and Parliament was now the sole source of the national strength and initiative. Count Cambray-Digny, Minister of Finance, demonstrated the necessity of a strong and compact majority for the execution of the Ministerial programme. The Minister strongly insisted upon the inviolability of engagements with public creditors. Liquidation or a conversion of the public debt would be tantamount to bankruptcy. Signor Ferrari said that it was the intention of his party resolutely to support the Government, without, however, implying that they approved of all its past measures. He concluded by proposing that they should pass to the order of the day, consisting of three paragraphs. The first two declared that the Chamber is persuaded that the nation wishes for the greatest union and concord in Parliament in order to ensure the restoration of the finances to a sound condition, by strict economy and a better organisation of taxation. The Chamber is convinced that the firm maintenance of these principles will ensure a natural and orderly development of constitutional liberty. These two paragraphs were voted unanimously. The third paragraph was as follows:—"The Chamber, having heard the declaration of the Ministry, is confident that the Cabinet will conduct the public administration in that sense, and passes to the order of the day." On a division this paragraph was adopted by 168 ayes against 20 noes. 77 members of the Left abstained from voting.

SPAIN.

The discussion of the paragraphs in the draught of the Constitution treating of religion still continues in the Cortes. The result will probably be, that the Roman Catholic religion will still remain the State faith, but that all other creeds and forms of worship will be fully tolerated.

Disturbances are again reported in the north of Spain. They were the subject of an inquiry in the Cortes, last Saturday, in answer to which the Minister of Justice said that the partisans both of Don Carlos and Queen Isabella were incessantly at work, with the object of bringing about civil war. The Government, however, would act with energy; and one of the bands had been dispersed by the troops, on Friday, in the Asturias. In Navarre, a volunteer of liberty had been assassinated by Carlists that morning, and Colonel Lagunery had been wounded. The Minister proceeded to state that the Government could vouch for the fidelity of the army and volunteers, and he believed that the ordinary means would be sufficient for preventing a breach of the peace. If, however, necessity should require it, the Government would call upon the House to grant them extraordinary powers. The latest intelligence received is to the effect that a Carlist conspiracy has been discovered at Barcelona, which has led to thirty-six persons being arrested. Several superior and commissioned officers, both on active service and on half pay, are among the prisoners. Implicating documents have also been seized.

GERMANY.

In the North German Parliament, on Tuesday, the Director of the Postal Service explained, in answer to a question, that the delay in the negotiations for a postal treaty with England was due to a difference between the views of the Post Offices of the two countries as to the tariff for closed parcels through the Federal territory, which difference he hoped would soon be removed.

THE UNITED STATES.

President Grant has requested Mr. Motley, the newly-appointed United States Minister to England, to enter upon his duties in London by the commencement of June.

In the Senate, on the 19th ult., Mr. Chandler offered the following resolution:—"Resolved,—That, in the judgment of the Senate, the solution of all controversies between Great Britain and the United States will be found in the surrender of all the British possessions in North America to the people of the United States, and that the President be and is hereby requested to open negotiations as soon as practicable for a settlement of all matters in dispute upon that basis;" which, after a long discussion, was, at Mr. Sumner's suggestion, referred to the Foreign Relations Committee. On this resolution the *New York Times* says:—"Those who are talking so very glibly about the transfer of Canada, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island, and Newfoundland to this country by the English Government, lose sight of one fact. It is not in the power of the English Government to transfer these vast territories, with their population of four millions. The colonists would not submit to be bought and sold in this way. And it is they who would have to be consulted about the matter. The free and hardy population of Canada and the maritime provinces would be very apt to take their destiny into their own hands if they found they were to be made the subject of trade and 'dicker.' Of course we could fight them and 'whip them.' We could 'whip' anything whatever, couldn't we? But then they also could make a show of fight, and could add a billion, or so, to our national debt before we brought them into the Union as subjugated territories to be governed by the great men at Washington." Other organs of opinion in the States, however, approve the object of Mr. Chandler's resolution, though they deprecate the use of blustering, bullying language.

PARAGUAY.

The *Anglo-Brazilian Times* of April 7 publishes the following:—"From the seat of war we learn that while a body of Brazilians were engaged, upon March 10, on the rebuilding of the railway bridge over the Juquery, about seventeen miles from

Asuncion, they were suddenly attacked by 200 Paraguayans brought up in a railway train, upon one of whose waggon a cannon was mounted, which showered grape on the working party and its supports. After a skirmish which lasted for some time, the Paraguayans steamed off before the cavalry could cross the river and reach them. A despatch, dated Buenos Ayres, March 20, says that the Paraguayans had again come down by rail-road as far as the bridge at Yagay, surprised the Brazilian post at that place, and had succeeded in carrying them off. The Brazilian commander at a port lower down, on hearing of the action, at once started off in pursuit of the Paraguayans; and up to the departure of the steamer nothing had been heard of the expedition sent in search of the allies and their captors. It was generally rumoured at Asuncion before the departure of the mail that another sanguinary conflict had taken place, but the result had not been announced. A Paraguayan deserter had stated that Lopez, with a large number of troops, was close to the town of Luque, and on the allies advancing to retake the position they found the place evacuated, and the prisoners all carried off by the Paraguayans, who were constantly harassing the Brazilians at Luque, which was garrisoned by about 6000 men. Asuncion was stated to be full of Paraguayan spies.

THE FRANCO-BELGIAN PROTOCOL.

THE following is a translation of the Franco-Belgian Railway Protocol, recently signed by the Ministers of France and Belgium:—

In order to define the present position of the negotiations undertaken between the French Government and the Cabinet of Brussels, the undersigned have drawn up the following protocol:—

M. Frère-Orban states that objections on principle prevent the approval by the Belgian Government of the treaties projected by the Eastern Company, the Great Luxembourg Company, and the company for working the Netherlands Railways. He refers, in this respect, to the verbal and written declarations which he has made. M. Frère-Orban then declares that, animated by a warm desire to maintain between France and Belgium the most friendly relations, and to facilitate the commercial intercourse between France, Belgium, and the Low Countries, the Belgian Government offers its most cordial assistance towards the organisation of the direct services mentioned in the conventions; passenger-trains to be regulated according to local requirements.

M. Frère-Orban places in the hands of the Marquis de Lavalette a plan drawn up in accordance with the views he has indicated.

M. the Marquis de Lavalette believes that the most favourable solution is to be found, not in the approval pure and simple of the conventions in question, but in new agreements for working, in whole or in part, the lines of the Great Luxembourg and the Liège and Limburg Companies, agreements which should contain full guarantees for the control, superintendence, and authority which incontestably belong to the Belgian Government. Nevertheless, M. the Marquis de Lavalette would be pleased to obtain the same result by the means suggested by M. Frère-Orban, and he declares that the Emperor's Government, influenced by sentiments of the sincerest cordiality towards Belgium, and solely desirous of affording to economical interests their legitimate expansion, is willing to inquire whether the plan suggested by the Belgian Government will obtain the object it has pointed out.

Therefore, M. Frère-Orban and M. the Marquis de Lavalette have for this purpose agreed to appoint a mixed commission, composed of three members on behalf of each country, who shall be named within a space of fifteen days from the date of signing the present protocol.

Done at Paris in duplicate, April 27, 1869.

"LAVALETTE."
"FRÈRE-ORBAN."

THE IRISH CHURCH.—A large meeting in opposition to the Irish Church Disestablishment Bill was held in St. James's Hall, on Monday. The Earl of Harrowby presided, and amongst the other speakers were the Duke of Marlborough, Lord Fitzwater, the Bishop of Derry, Sir Joseph Napier, and Mr. J. C. Colquhoun. Resolutions were passed protesting against the measure introduced by Mr. Gladstone, as being subversive of rights, and destructive of interests secured by fundamental laws; and calling upon the House of Lords, "in the exercise of their undoubted constitutional privileges, to refuse their assent to a measure so prejudicial to the Protestant religion and so perilous to the peace and integrity of the empire."

THE WATER WE DRINK.—The difference in the purity of the water supplied to various towns in this kingdom is so great that a stranger seeing a table of the results of analysis might almost suppose he was reading of different countries or quarters of the globe. The report of Professor Frankland, of the Royal College of Chemistry, shows that the water supplied to London, tested by samples drawn in April, ranged from 28.4 tons of solid impurity in the New River water to 42 tons in 100,000 of the supply of the Kent Company. In Bristol, samples drawn in February showed 28.66 tons of solid impurity in 100,000 tons supplied by the Bristol Waterworks Company; and in the supply furnished at All Saints-lane no less than 127.28 tons. At Manchester, sample taken in June, there were only 6.2 tons of solid impurity; at Lancaster, in November, only 4.58 tons; Preston, in August, 12.44 tons; Newcastle, in September, 23.40 tons; Glasgow, in July, Loch Katrine water, only 3 tons; Edinburgh, in September, the Crawley Burn, the Swanton, and the Colinton water, ranging from 11.28 to 14.16 tons; the Coniston water, 22.58 tons; Dublin, the Vartry water, brought from a distance of thirty miles, only 6.34 tons; Cartan's pump water, from the most used of the Dublin wells, 81.62 tons. It will be observed that water is supplied to Lancaster, Manchester, and Glasgow of very much greater purity than any that can be had in London; and Londoners would like to know if there is an inexorable "reason why."

THE VICAR OF FROME ON SEPARATION OF CHURCH AND STATE.—The Rev. W. J. E. Bennett, in a sermon at Bristol, on Sunday night, rebuked his clerical brethren who dread the separation of Church and State, which Mr. Bennett believes to be coming. If free from the State, which was composed of all sorts of creeds and no creeds, the Church might, Mr. Bennett said, go and preach the Gospel to the poor from the old doctrines of the Catholic faith as handed down to them. They would have no more bishops to sit in the House of Lords and bring in discipline laws. Even the slightest symptom of a return to such a golden era was no cause of grief or fear; they ought rather to rejoice and be exceedingly glad. Within the last thirty years there was no sign of any deliverance; and the idea of Church and State was so deeply imbedded in the people and priesthood, and, of course, in the Bishops, that even to rise up from their chair in their prison and look through the bars would have been thought an intolerable piece of audacity. Those were the days when the matin and the vespers bell sounded in their churches once a week, when the blessed Sacrament of the Eucharist was solemnly announced once a quarter, when preachers fed their people with essays out of heathen moralists, and the name of Jesus never received the adoration which they had just now given to it in that place; when the clergy rode in the hunting-field in scarlet coats along with their squires, and to be called "priests" would have been an insult rather than an honour. Those were the palmy days of Church and State; and the consequence was the people fell away by thousands, and there was every conceivable schism. There was—he was going to use a strong expression, but he was warranted by it in the Word of God—"an adulterous" love between the kingdom of the world and the kingdom of God; so close it seemed that no purification would ever be at hand to save it. There were not very many of them who remembered, perhaps, those days; but he had passed through them all. Might he not say now they had passed through the darkness, and there was the light shining? Let them go free, and they would be a Church such as had not been for 300 years.

THE THAMES EMBANKMENT.—Most persons are aware that the Metropolitan District Railway Company, which obtained powers to make a line under the Embankment, have failed to carry out their powers up to the present moment, and have thus delayed and are still delaying its completion. This has involved an enormous expense on the Board of Works, and thus, of course, on those who provide the money; but the worst loss has not yet been reached, and there is great probability, not only of the final opening of the embankment being delayed, but of a further outlay falling upon the ratepayers. Mr. Shaw (one of the Marylebone representatives at the Board of Works) recently succeeded in carrying the following resolution:—"That a return be prepared of the public money expended by the board (exclusive of sums paid to contractors, but including cost of supervision, rents, and all other expenses of every kind) in respect of the works comprised in contract No. 1 of the Thames Embankment between Aug. 16, 1866, the date at which, according to the contract, the works should have been completed, and Dec. 31, 1868." "Also a similar return in respect of contract No. 2, of the Thames Embankment, between March 9, 1866 (the date at which, according to the contract, the works should have been completed) and Dec. 31, 1868." The return, which has just been laid before the board by the newly-appointed accountant, shows the expenses referred to amount to £598,982.3d. There is a portion of this sum chargeable to other portions of the works; but, as Mr. Shaw remarked, in commenting upon the return, a large staff of officials has been retained and paid which would have been dispensed with but for the delay. The public are also losing interest on about two millions of money expended on the Embankment, which is lying idle, and has been (through the delay of the railway company) lying idle for two years. Since 1866, then, the public have been suffering in the loss of this interest on the capital sunk, at the rate of £100,000 per annum, and will continue to do so until the railway works are completed. Lastly, the £200,000 which the company was bound to pay to the Metropolitan Board for the privilege of making the railway in the Embankment has not been paid. The railway company, it may be added, is only now making an effort to raise the capital necessary to make the line.

THE ROYAL ACADEMY DINNER.

THE president and council of the Royal Academy gave an inaugural banquet last Saturday evening—Sir Francis Grant in the chair. There was a numerous and distinguished list of guests, and amongst the speakers were the Duke of Cambridge, the Archbishop of Canterbury, the Prime Minister, the Bishop of Oxford, and Mr. Disraeli. The academy was opened to the public on Monday.

Although the speeches at the Royal Academy banquet are invariably reported in the morning papers with more fulness than those at any other annual dinner, it is seldom one can find in them anything of special interest. Given the names of the speakers and the toasts, it would be hardly difficult to construct the speeches. Everybody praises the pictures and protests his own entire ignorance of art; the Ministers and members of Parliament dilate on the agreeable break in the season which the dinner affords, and the gentlemen who respond for the Church and for literature expatiate on the value of art as the handmaid of religion, and upon the brotherhood and mutual obligations of artists and writers. The proceedings of last Saturday night were no exception to the general rule. The artists were, of course, congratulated on being housed in their new home; and the Bishop of Oxford, in saying grace, acknowledged the hand of the Almighty in the matter. His prayer was as follows:—"We give Thee thanks, O Lord, for what Thy bounty has provided for us; and this day we praise Thee for these goodly halls which Thou has enabled us to raise. We pray Thee by Thy grace to make us seek first Thy glory, and offer to Thee with thankful hearts the works of genius and of beauty, which come of Thy good gift and inspiration, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen." The Duke of Cambridge returned thanks for the Army (referring to the fact that it was the anniversary of Wellington's birthday), Lord Chelmsford for the Navy, and Major Leighton for the volunteers. Mr. Gladstone spoke on behalf of the Queen's Ministers, and promised that if the Academy should ever revert to the old custom of not proposing a special toast in honour of the Government of the day, the men who might compose it would not resent the omission as long as they were asked to dinner. Mr. Disraeli got up at a much later period of the evening to return thanks for the House of Commons. The Archbishop of Canterbury said the dissociation of art from religion was not good for either art or religion; and Mr. Reverdy Johnson, who returned thanks for himself, reiterated his assurances of the goodwill of Americans towards England. Lord Lawrence made a speech which is not reported, and the Lord Mayor ventured to say that the pictures were as good as any he had seen; he had been warned not to criticise nor even to praise; but, as Molière was anxious to know the opinion even of his own servant, the members of the Royal Academy might not altogether disdain that of the Chief Magistrate of London. The Dean of Westminster had to get upon his legs at the far end of the proceedings to respond to the usual compliment to literature.

AN EVANGELICAL SISTERHOOD.

THE formation of a new community, to be known as "The Evangelical Protestant Deaconesses' Institute and Training Hospital," was celebrated last Saturday afternoon, in the grounds of the building which is to be the head-quarters of the new sisterhood. A luncheon was given in a tent erected in the grounds; and this was followed by a public meeting, over which Mr. Samuel Morley, M.P., presided, and in which the Rev. Mr. Hale, Vicar of Tottenham; the Rev. T. Binney, the Rev. A. Hall, the Rev. Mr. Wallace, Dr. Lasearon, and others took part. The new institution is an offshoot of an orphan home founded by Dr. Lasearon, a retired medical practitioner at Tottenham. Some time ago, having received many applications for nurses to attend the sick-beds of the poor, the doctor determined to establish a deaconesses' institution. A small house at Upper Edmonton was converted into a cottage hospital, and soon filled with patients, and applications for nurses again poured in. Dr. Lasearon then made his case public, and soon found persons willing to help him. Mr. John Morley gave the house and grounds, and built a hospital within them, and this was the place opened on Saturday. The institution is described by its founder and director as "a voluntary association of Christian women for the performance of works of active benevolence, such as the nursing of the sick and training of the young." The deaconesses wear white caps and aprons, with dark-coloured dresses and bonnets. They will attend the hospital, the orphan's home, and other institutions connected with them, and will nurse in private families, when asked to do so, upon certain conditions. They must be addressed as "sister," and be allowed sufficient rest, exercise, and quietude. Travelling expenses, board, &c., must be provided, but no charge is to be made for their services. The deaconesses are to be of all ranks, receiving maintenance from a common fund; private means, however, to be left at the possessor's uncontrolled disposal. Evangelical principles and "a satisfactory recommendation from the pastor of the church to which they belong" are mentioned amongst the qualifications for admission. It is expected that each sister will promise to remain at least five years in the service of the institution, unless unforeseen events compel her withdrawal. Candidates for admission must be over seventeen and not more than thirty-five years of age. They must not be engaged to be married nor have any intention of making such engagement. The community is modelled upon the principles of the well-known establishment at Kaiserswerth, on the Rhine, and the lady superintendent at Tottenham was ten years at that place.

SCIENCE AND WAR.—The London Peace Society has for some years past been actively promulgating its views on the Continent of Europe as well as at home. Its foreign auxiliaries are now (aided by increasing popular intelligence) developing into active and influential associations, with a valuable literature of their own. From a recent eloquent address by Mr. Frederic Passy, secretary of one of these Continental bodies (the Paris League of Peace), we extract the following striking allusion to the effect on warfare of the modern scientific "improvements":—"War used to be a duel—a frightful one, but yet grand and attractive. The combatants knew and appreciated those with whom they fought. Courage, perseverance, physical strength, and the union of intelligence with foresight, still availed much, whatever might be the risks as to success or defeat. Man was still something even amid the most fearful onslaughts of brute force. He felt that it was so, and he was proud of it. But in our own day science has advanced, and has brought to perfection not only the arts of production but those of slaughter. She has reduced war almost suddenly to a mere mechanical operation. 'It is scientific butchery!' as a contemporary writer (M. Guérault, in the *Opinion Nationale*) has energetically exclaimed. We now make use of killing machines. We deliver to them men, the flower of our youth, and they give them back to us—corpses. Under these conditions the interest of conflict, and almost all conflict itself, disappears. We have but huge executions, characterised by horror alone. The soldier, the officer, the general, are now no more, literally, than flesh for cannon. Thought and feeling revolt with disgust in face of these vast and stupid butcheries."

SALISBURY CATHEDRAL.—The restoration of the beautiful west front of this cathedral is now approaching completion, the stone and marble work throughout having been restored, together with the enriched mouldings of the porches. It is believed that there were originally 160 figures on the exterior of the cathedral, 123 of which stood on the west front, the whole series of the latter forming what is termed a *Te Deum*, or "theological scheme." Under the advice of Mr. Scott, the architect, this was the plan of restoration adopted and now in progress, the sculptor entrusted with the execution of the work being Mr. Redfern. The work may thus be described:—In the pannel of the great gable of the west front is a colossal figure of our Saviour seated in majesty. Ranged in successive tiers below this grand central figure there will be in the first tier figures of angels; in the second, of prophets and patriarchs; in the third, of apostles and evangelists; in the fourth and fifth, of saints, martyrs, and founders. Of the entire number of statues required to fill the niches on the west front, about fifty will soon have been fixed in their places, exclusive of eight ancient mutilated figures which have been restored by Mr. Redfern. The total sum expended on the entire restoration of the exterior of the whole building has, up to the present time, been £12,415 2s. 2d., in addition to the £10,000 and interest received from the Ecclesiastical Commissioners. The balance in hand of subscriptions (£3096 9s.) is to be expended on the interior restoration of the Lady Chapel. Earl Beauchamp has munificently undertaken to erect an altar screen between the Lady Chapel and the choir, in memory of Bishop Beauchamp, who resided over the diocese of Salisbury from 1460 to 1489.

ROYAL SOCIETY FOR THE PREVENTION OF CRUELTY TO ANIMALS.

New premises to be occupied as soon as completed by this society were formally introduced to public notice on Tuesday afternoon by the laying of the foundation-stone by Miss Burdett Coutts. The site is in Jermyn-street, and it has been obtained through the munificent gift of £5000 by Mr. George Wood, one of the committee. The unceasing rain which fell from daybreak till night detracted considerably from the proceedings as a mere ceremony, and reduced the comfort of the spectators to the lowest point. A large number of ladies and gentlemen, however, showed their interest in the society by braving these drawbacks. The Earl of Harrowby, the Bishop of Gloucester and Bristol, Sir John Burgoyne, Lady Melville, Sir G. Nugent, Lady Gomm, Sir E. Hilditch, Lady Duckett, and Lady Beauchamp were amongst the company present. After the chanting of the "Jubilate Deo," Mr. John Colam, the secretary, read an historical statement, and the Earl of Harrowby commented upon it. The stone was duly laid by Miss Coutts, a dedication prayer was offered by the Bishop of Gloucester and Bristol, and the brief proceedings shortly after concluded. Miss Coutts was loudly cheered when she came forward to perform the ceremony, and to receive a remarkably-beautiful little trowel, made by Mr. Benson and presented by the committee. The cheers were renewed when, tapping the block, she declared the foundation-stone of the new institution building well and truly laid. The society and its achievements are so well known that nothing further need be added but a few bare facts. The society was founded in 1824; years before that date an Act having been passed to prevent the cruel and improper treatment of cattle. Since then some 16,000 convictions have been obtained against offenders. The society aims at six special objects—1, the circulation of suitable tracts amongst persons having to do with animals; 2, the introduction into schools of books calculated to teach children to treat dumb animals with kindness; 3, systematic appeals to the public; 4, periodical sermons from various pulpits; 5, the employment of special constables; 6, the prosecution of offenders and publication of the offence and punishment. It would be impossible in limited space to enumerate the work the society has done; bull-baiting, cock-fighting, bull-running, badger-baiting, and other amusements of a kindred nature have been successively attacked and abolished. Nothing but the increasing vigilance of the society at the present time would prevent cruelty to animals in a multitude of forms from drovers, butchers, labourers, and, in fact, all who are concerned with animals. Therefore, the committee appeal with much confidence for public support. The income is about £4000, but an extra £2900 is wanted to complete the new premises in Jermyn-street. The analysis of convictions kept by the society reveals some curious facts, and gives instances of remarkable ingenuity in animal torture. The largest proportion of offences is with respect to horses; the smallest, cats. In 1867 only 719 persons were punished for the ill-treatment of horses; donkeys and mules, 71; oxen, 26; sheep and pigs, 14; dogs, 28; cats, 4; various (viz., poultry and goats), 132. Of these convictions, 610 were obtained in the provinces. Until the Jermyn-street institution is open, the offices of the society remain at 172, New Bond-street.

ASPIRANTS TO MATRIMONY.

At the Sheffield Townhall, on Monday, three young men, named respectively George Herd, silversmith; Joseph Fidler, silversmith; and Arthur Harrop, of Broomhall-street, were charged by John Wilmer Lambert, auger-filer, St. Mary's-road, Sheffield, for "that they did unlawfully, maliciously, and knowingly, and with intent to provoke a breach of the peace, cause to be inserted in a certain public newspaper called the *Sheffield Independent*, a certain false, scandalous, and defamatory statement of libel of and concerning one John Wilmer Lambert, and against the peace of our Lady the Queen." The advertisement complained of was as follows:

To single young women.—A young man wishes to meet with a partner for life.—Any young lady feeling disposed, apply by letter, WILLIAM LAMBERT, auger-filer, St. Mary's-road, Sheffield.

Many answers had been received to the advertisement, and those given below are average specimens of their spelling and diction:—

April 5, 1869. Sir—seeing Advertisement in the "Independent" that you are in Wants a partner for life so I offer myself as a Candidate. But Before there is much More correspondence I should like an interview with you. Note the adress. . . .

The next young lady, one would think, is a very nice investment for an enterprising young man. She says:—

I write to say that I should be very happy to form an acquaintance with you. I hope money will be no object, as I have only the small sum of £200 a year. If you wish to see me, will you please to come over to Roche Abbey to-morrow, and meet me by the old abbey at three o'clock. Will you please wear a green tie, and a cane in your hand, and you will know me by wearing a blue dress. I shall have a friend with me, but I can disperse (sic) with her when I meet you. Sir, I hope you will not decline the offer, as I shall be there if all is well.—I remain yours, though unknown,

The next lady writes a very passable hand, and commences thus:—

Wilmer Lambert: The under signed quite feel disposed as you call it. I am considered by my friends good looking, and they think I shall make a good wife. I am the age 22 and dark. If W. L. answers this please send carte de visite. Address by letter.

The next letter is couched in "characters uncouth, and spelt amiss," but is very explicit, notwithstanding:—

seeing your advertisement in todays paper seeing that you ar wanting a partner for life and as i am wanting the same my age is eighteen more picolars when we meet if it will be convenient to you to meet me Sunday the fourth at halfpast two at Ecclesall charch, the top gate at the west end I shall have on a violet dress black jacket, velvet bonnet black and blue if you cant come will you pleas to write.

The lady next on the list writes very determinedly, and evidently meant to secure the luckless Lambert for her family if she could not get him personally. She says:—

Sir,—I with pleasure saw it advertised in the "Independent" to-day you was in wants of a partner and would be obliged if you will aopt Miss A. M. A.—, tall, dark hair, dark eyes, and what the world calls good-looking (age 25), or my sister, who is (24) good looking. A widow no children. A fortune at her own disposal willed to her by her late husband Mr. R.—, or if you would prefer a light young lady my friend Miss U. M. C.—, who is at present residing in sheffield, but is scotch, light hair, blue eyes, and affectionate will aopt you please to answer in Tuesday "Independent," and you shall hear farther from me—Please not delay as I shall be ancouse to know which you prefer.

The next letter betrays a scornful and characteristic disdain for orthography and punctuation. It is as follows:—

My dear fren Iv Sean in to Day Nuse Paper you Wanting A wife I shall be glad for a good husbom But I should Be Very Glad to now you age firs 2 I should lik to now Whether you are Good temper My age is 24 years and a little Incom for Life and if you are Really in Wants of a Wife I should be happy to seay you after you Have Sent you Likenes and then I will meat you at my sisters and then We Will talk the Matter Over. Short aquantess 8om times makes Long Repentence [repentance] But I Would Mak you Comfortable While I Liv and A Little After I am Dead Weakly Incom—P.S. Excuse my Riting. PS Anserr by Next Post.

Other letters are from "a publican's daughter twenty-three years of age and as no objections to be a Partner if bouth sides sues toger;" from "the daughter of a respectable farmer who will be glad to make you welcome any time you come if we can make things right," and several which bear the appearance of having been written for the purpose of hoaxing the supposed advertiser.

Mr. Lambert, the complainant, was called, and was being examined, when a conversation took place between the legal gentlemen and the Bench as to whether some arrangement could not be come to between the parties. Eventually an apology was accepted, and the defendants got off on paying the costs, amounting to 30s.

A HEAVY FAILURE came before the Court of Bankruptcy on Wednesday. The bankrupt, Mr. George Melbourn, a merchant, of Leadenhall-street, has liabilities which are said to be not less than £700,000, and all that is at present known of the assets is that the bankrupt has £7000 worth of furniture.

THE RELIGIOUS QUESTION IN SPAIN.

THE Madrid correspondent of the *Indépendance Belge*, writing on the 29th ult., says:—

"The amendment of Cardinal Cuesta, Archbishop of Santiago, in favour of the maintenance of Catholic unity, was rejected yesterday by 193 votes against 51. More than thirty members, who appeared before their constituents as ardent Liberals, as having frankly and honestly accepted the programme of the revolution, strengthened the ranks, on this occasion, of the partisans of fanaticism and intolerance. Another amendment, proposed by Senor Ortiz de Zarate, also a terrible neo-Catholic, was rejected at the end of the sitting. He went further than Cardinal Cuesta and Canon Manterola, for his motion was thus worded:—'The nation undertakes to maintain the worship and the ministers of the Catholic religion, which all Spaniards profess; to respect and cause to be respected the rights and liberties of the Catholic and Apostolic Roman Church, the one true Church.' In support of his motion, the clerical deputy reached the extreme limits of intolerance. He said that members not professing Catholicism had no right to sit in the Cortes, because, in virtue of the existing laws, those who are not Catholics cannot exercise any public trust. He said also that Spain does not contain enough foreigners to concern herself about the religion they profess; that under any circumstances they could return to their own countries, Spain having no need of them. Who works the rich mines of Linarès? Who dug the irrigation canals in the fields of Guada Gajara? Who built the porcelain manufactories of Seville and Passage? Who works the iron of Malaga? Who planned and made the railways? Foreigners. In a word, Senor de Zarate is the enemy of all progress, and he would no doubt prefer that Spain should be without any of those ameliorations which constitute the glory of civilised nations. The speech of this member drew from several of his colleagues declarations of dissatisfaction."

On the same subject, the special correspondent of the *Star*, writing from Madrid on the 1st inst., supplies the subjoined information:—

"To hear 'the Church' pleading in the Cortes for the dogmatic assertion by the State that the Roman Catholic religion is the sole true one, and demanding the prohibition of all other forms of worship, flings us back into the darkest periods of the Middle Ages, when Popes ruled supreme and priests were the ministers of the occult power which overthrew thrones and trampled upon kings. It is not to be said that the Roman Catholic form of worship will certainly decline when freedom of conscience becomes a legal fact. It is possible it may even be extended, but any tumults that may arise will be provoked by intolerance and bigotry, not by the worshippers at a free altar. The hold which the priesthood have upon the minds of the masses, particularly in the country, is something startling; not to be conceived save by those who see with their own eyes. For instance, there has been a three-years' drought in Spain. The priests gave out recently that it was a visitation of Providence—a penalty for favouring the attempt to proclaim heresy; to place all creeds on the same footing as that of the Roman Catholic Church; and that rain would certainly be withheld if the people did not support by petitions to Congress the demands of the Church party. Unfortunately for the assertion of the Neos, on the very day that the Cardinal Archbishop of Santiago made his great speech in favour of Catholic unity, copious rains fell over the greater part of the country, and have continued to fall. Now, the people say the Archbishop must have made a mistake, for Providence has sent rain as a sign of disapproval of what the Church is doing. One can scarcely believe one is in the latter half of the nineteenth century. But it is no wonder the clerical party clings so closely to unity. Their letters have contained, from time to time, a few desultory statistics on the revenues and emoluments of the clergy. They were probably incorrect in some respects. Senor Garrido gave what may be accepted as more accurate information on this point in a speech in support of a rejected amendment, and as a statistician he stands in high repute. Under Charles II., with a population of 7,000,000, there were 9000 convents, 90,000 monks, and 34,000 nuns. In 1798, nearly a century later, there were 55,000 monks and 27,600 nuns, with a population of 9,300,000. In 1835, with a population of 13,500,000, there were 31,000 monks and 22,000 nuns. In 1868 the numbers respectively were 1200 monks and 17,000 nuns, the population being 17,000,000. With respect to the influence of the clergy on education, in 1797, when there were nearly 60,000 monks and nuns and 134,000 priests, there existed but one school for every 912 persons, whilst in 1868 there was one for every 613. The emoluments of the clergy at the commencement of the present century were:—In territorial revenues, 600,000,000 reals; tithes, 324,000,000; masses, 43,000,000; sermons, 8,200,000; sundry ceremonies of the Church, including exorcisms, 2,000,000; rights of the State, 30,000,000; collections,

images, and free gifts, 34,000,000—a nice little total of 1,041,200,000 reals, or about £10,412,000. The "free gifts," or *alforga*, were gifts in kind—bread, meat, poultry, game, wine, and other comestibles, obtained by house-to-house begging, the "brothers" doing the work, and carrying home the plunder in sacks. Another privilege the clergy enjoyed was being lodged when travelling free of cost. The clerical poultry, kept by public subscription, amounted to 2,944,889 head, the total quantity in the kingdom amounting to 21,360,000 head. Every five persons belonging to the Church owned eight kine; every individual twelve sheep and a half, and one hog. The people had to do with one head of cattle and three quarters each person; and, whilst the 151,000 gentlemen of the clergy had one horse between three, the common people were obliged to content themselves with one for every twenty-four. These facts may be left to speak for themselves, and will assuredly not be lost upon the Spanish nation. They have hitherto been known but to few. Men like Garrido, who brim over with statistics of this kind, are among the most dangerous enemies the advocates of Roman Catholic unity can encounter on any field, but especially in the Cortes."

very pleasant and cool to look at in the stifling atmosphere of the square room in this broiling month of May. A mountain stream trickles from the snowy heights, seen against a summer sky of deep azure. Moss-covered stones form its bed, and marvellous in truth of colouring is the painting of the varied tints produced by lichens, and ferns, and Alpine grasses. Next to this, a fearful equestrian portrait of the Sultan gives one an unpleasant conviction that the Commander of the Faithful is subject to sea-sickness. An interesting picture is Armand Dumaresq's Napoleon, seated on a bank, intently studying the map of Austerlitz spread on the ground before him, whilst a young aide-de-camp, behind his chief, awaits, pencil in hand, the next sentence he is to write. The pose of the figures is admirable, and the drawing irreproachable.

"Strange to say, the best portraits in the square room are the work of women. Mdlle. Felicie Schneider's three-quarter length picture of M. Duruy, Minister of Public Instruction, is a first-rate work. A student, a man of simple habits, a thinker, is before you, painted with force, and yet with extreme delicacy. This is the finest portrait in the square room. Cecile Ferrère's full-length painting of the Prince of Asturias, in a totally different style, is a fine specimen

of a Court picture—the young ex-heir, in black velvet, leaning, with a certain dignity of grace, on a gun; his retriever, crouched at his feet, is thrown into strong relief by the rich folds of a chestnut velvet curtain. The only bit of colour, the scarlet ribbon of the Golden Fleece, which hangs round his neck, brightens up the gloom of this Vandyke-like portrait. The child's face has something of the Bourbon form; but, except in outline, is like neither of his parents. The next important work of a lady's pencil is Miss Wilson's life-size portrait of General Grant. Dubuffe and Winterhalter must look to their laurels when such as these fair rivals appear in the field. The best bit of still-life is Desgoffe's; and very exquisite it is. A bronze helmet; a silver statuette of Dejantre placed on a Turkish table-cover, on which flowers lie scattered, painted as flowers seldom are. And such flowers! A scarlet leaf-like exotic, gardenias of waxy whiteness, a few orchids—each chefs-d'œuvre—have fallen on the Damascus blade of a sword (belonging to Count Nieuwerkerque's collection). In admirable but strange contrast, and still more wonderful, is the painting of a cinque-cento jewel hanging on a narrow ribbon of scarlet velvet. As a bit of realistic work this (728) is unrivalled. It is gorgeous in colour and perfect in composition. Considering the enormous amount of finish bestowed by Desgoffe on his works, the rapidity with which he produces them is startling. Daubigné stands high in the opinion of his compatriots. His 'Orchard—Apple-Trees in Bloom' (628)—is stiff and monotonous. François—equally highly thought of—gives us, as I already told you, 'Mont Blanc, seen from the Jura.' This is a masterpiece. The effect of looking down hill into the valley, generally so difficult to accomplish, is admirably given: the atmosphere rendered with marvellous clearness, the rich and varied tints of autumn on the wooded hill in the foreground are in this drawing far superior to the generality of landscape. Between the snowy Alpine ridge in the far distance flow the waters of a placid lake, reflecting the grey tints of the sky above. The picture is quiet in tone, and does not overstep the modesty of nature.

"So much for the square room. Through the galleries, lettered according to the names of the artists whose works they contain—and 2478 are exhibited—I could but push my way, and take a

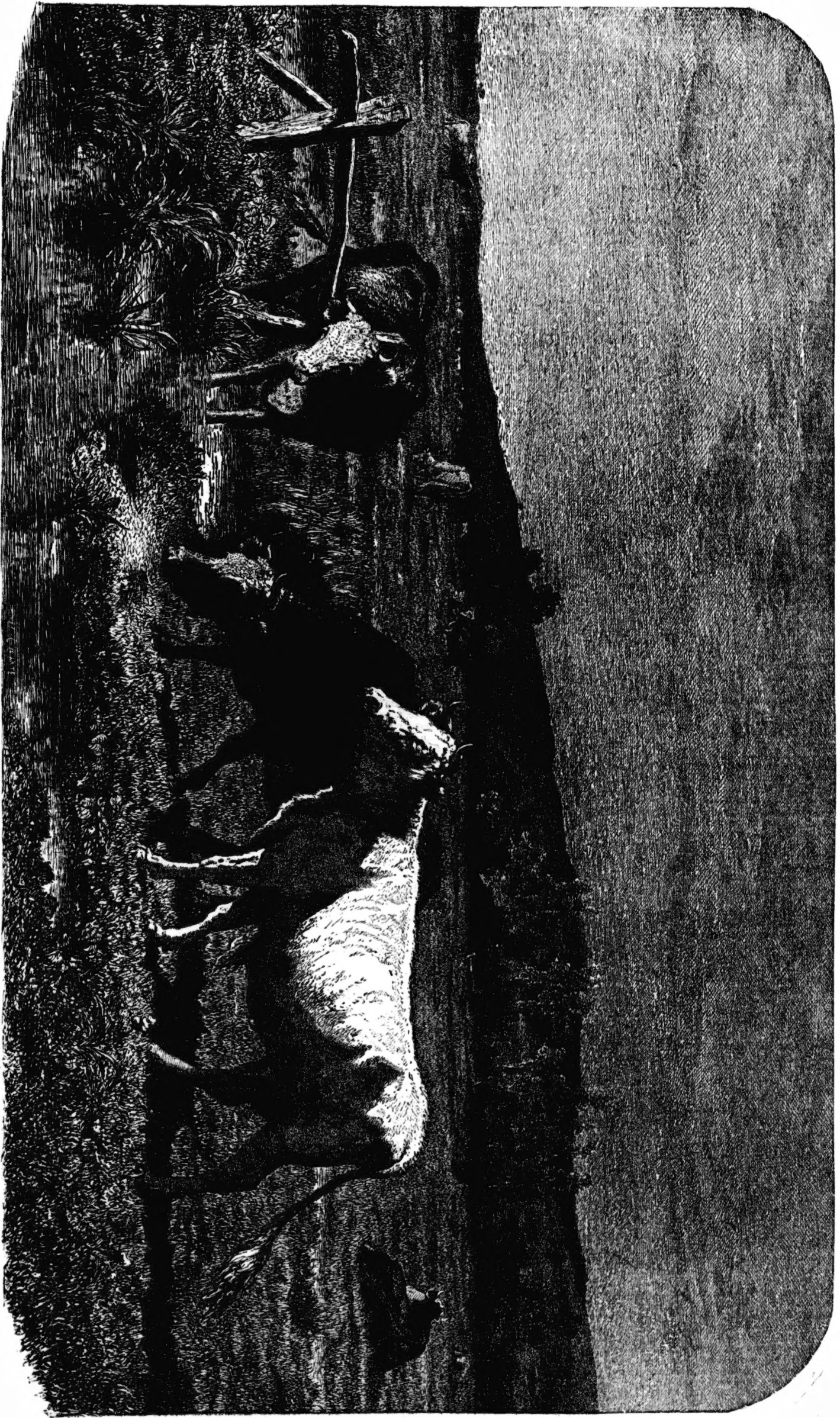
passing glance at the favourites. First among these is Henner's 'Femme Couchée.' A young girl lies on a canopy of purple velvet. She is nude, and sleeps. The ivory tint of her exquisitely-moulded limbs, their perfect proportion, the repose of her figure, combine to make this a most attractive work. Henner has laboured conscientiously, and well deserves the encomiums lavished on this proof of his genius. Gérôme's 'Turkish Old Clothes Seller' is beyond praise. The painting of the pink satin jacket slung on his shoulder equals anything of the kind ever executed. The expression of the old man's head is wonderful. One hears 'Old clo', old clo!' uttered by those pale lips. Gérôme's 'Caique' (1027) is very inferior to this gem. Regnault's extraordinary equestrian portrait of General Prim attracts a crowd. Its author is but four-and-twenty. He is son of the Director of Sévres. Young though he is, his genius is undeniable. The hero of the Spanish revolution, tired, and evidently overdone, suddenly checks his magnificent chestnut charger, whilst he listens to the cheers of the crowd massed in the background. The painting of the horse is something wonderful; the anatomy of the forelegs firmly planted in the ground, the veins starting from the flesh, the broad chest spotted and flecked with foam, his eye red with passion, the whole animal chafing and panting at the sudden check from his master's hand, is a triumph of painting. The pose of the General may be a little theatrical; but, nevertheless, let us congratulate M. Regnault on the brilliant career which evidently lies before him.



"THE RETURN FROM TITHE-GATHERING."—(PICTURE BY M. VIBERT, IN THE PARIS FINE-ART EXHIBITION.)

THE FRENCH FINE-ART EXHIBITION.

THE great artistic event of the year in France—the exhibition of the works of living artists—which was opened in Paris last Saturday, attracted even a greater crowd than usual at these anniversaries at the Palace of Industry. What is called in England "the private view" took place on the day preceding, when the visitors were summarily cleared away in order that the Emperor and Empress and their suite might enjoy a real private view of the pictures. Hence it was, probably, that greater numbers than ordinary attended on the first public day—Saturday. A correspondent thus describes the exhibition:—"This year we have a very good exhibition of paintings and a superior show of statuary; and the general opinion is that the exhibition of this year is above an average in order of merit. In the square room, where the best works are collected, we have, opposite the entrance-door, Bougereau's 'Apollo and the Muses in Olympus,' intended for the ceiling of the principal theatre at Bordeaux—a work thought much of by French artists. I can only say of it, seen, as it is, in a false light, that its composition appears defective, and the colouring faded; placed on a ceiling the effect will be very different. The 'Assumption' of Bonnot is a splendid work, and occupies the greater part of the wall opposite the Olympian festival, Courbet's stag-hunt and the inundated victims of the Loire being the pendants to right and left. Beneath Bougereau's ceiling, on the right, is Doré's 'Souvenir de Rosenlaus,' richer in colour and more vigorous in execution than the majority of his landscapes, and



"THE MARSHES OF INCHEDEVILLE."—(PICTURE BY M. VAN MARCK, IN THE PARIS FINE-ART EXHIBITION.)

"One's eyes tire of so much colour, and one gladly wanders out of the heated and crowded galleries into the cool and pleasant *salons* devoted to water-colour drawings. The work of one of our own countrymen first attracted my notice. Arthur Wilson, of Sheffield, pupil of Godfrey Sykes, exhibits a view of the interior of St. Severin Cathedral. In looking at this clever picture, in which accuracy of detail and glowing yet harmonious colour fascinate and charm, one is strongly reminded of some of Hagar's best work. Light streams through an antique window on the curiously-coloured carvings which decorate a side chapel. This interior, framed, as it were, by massive pillars supporting pointed arches, intersecting each other in innumerable graceful lines, is eminently characteristic of middle-age architecture, to which epoch this ancient church belongs. Mr. Wilson is not the only English exhibitor. We

have two landscapes by Maccollum; a gem by Todd, the subject— a basket of purple plums and some flowers forgotten on a mossy bank; landscapes by Cashen, a native of Cheltenham, a city (so writes the compiler of the catalogue) to be found in England—the subjects, 'Glen Dacha' and 'Dacha' River,' are remarkable for the luminosity and brilliancy of their colouring. America is represented by Miss Wilson for portraits; Ramsay, for still life; Willy, for home scenes; for landscapes, by Owen and Biersch, whose immense 'Storm in the Rocky Mountains' might well be divided into three separate pictures; and Bacon, whose 'Lost Money at a Dresden Fair' is full of German nationality and broad humour. His second picture, 'Where is Mama?' is natural, fresh, and carefully painted."

M. Vibert having already attracted considerable attention. "Le Bûcher de la Dîme" is, in fact, as remarkable for its careful treatment as for the display of colour by which the artist has distinguished himself. Under that tremendous heat, and in such a glare of sunlight, who would not wish to go to sleep, even though it might be only beneath the reverend shadow of a superior's umbrella and with the accompanying difficulty of walking supported by a donkey that one is too exhausted to stimulate to a decent pace? Truly, the collection of tiles, whether they be paid in money or kind, is an arduous duty and one requiring the expectations to be derived from prospective feasts of poultry and the contents of cool stone bottles to make it possible to poor human nature. The way is full of peril, too, when the painters are so well laden and the great umbrella has to be borne on that narrow path, where two priests may be said to be at

the mercy of a woman and an ass. There is danger for the bottle which is so coolly enounced in its basket, and danger for the great red jar on the other side. It is difficult to decide who is master of the situation; and, for aught anybody can see, the problem may be solved by the whole party slumbering till sundown, and then waking with a sudden and simultaneous start.

M. Van Marck's picture of the Incheville Marshes is one of the most charming pastoral subjects in the whole fine-art exhibition of the Paris season. It recalls some of the works of the great old Dutch masters, with more tenderness of landscape and softened beauty of tone than is usually displayed in what are called "cattle pieces;" while the introduction of water in the foreground is an additional feature that enhances, as water always does, the completeness of the whole work.

INNER LIFE OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS.—NO. 354.

SIR ARTHUR BULLER.

"CHARLES BULLER, you know; he has just come to town; but I have not yet seen him. Arthur, his younger brother, I take to be the handsomest man in England; and he, too, has considerable talent." This is an extract from a letter, written in 1829, by John Sterling to his brother Anthony, giving an account of a visit to the Bullers of Devon. Charles Buller, as we all recollect, came to be a notable man in the House. He early conquered a good position there, and was a universal favourite. No man ever breathed who was more admired and honoured; and if he had lived to be old he would doubtless have risen very high indeed. But this was not to be. In 1848, when he was but forty-two years of age, envious Death came and snatched him away. Few deaths ever caused a greater sensation than his. But it is of Arthur that we have now specially to speak. He, when John Sterling wrote that letter, was twenty-three years old; and we can easily believe that he was then a very handsome man, for when we first came to know him, ten years ago, when he was over fifty years old, albeit he had lived in Ceylon eight years and in Calcutta ten, he was still a handsome man. Well, three weeks ago Sir Arthur was in the House, seemingly quite well. Soon afterwards rumour came up that he was unwell, afflicted with a carbuncle, or something of that sort; but there was no hint of danger, nor did we hear of anything like danger until Thursday last week, when news came that his case was hopeless, to be followed rapidly by the intelligence that he was dead. Sir Arthur Buller, though he had "considerable talents," was not a great man, and to people out of the House was scarcely known; and some of our readers may wonder, seeing that Death is ever, at the rate of one a month at least, snatching members behind his dark curtain, why we should thus formally notice this particular death. Our reasons for devoting a paragraph to the death of Sir Arthur Buller are threefold:—1st, he was the brother of Charles Buller; 2nd, the friend of John Sterling; 3rd, he was one of the most genial, kindly, witty, humorous men that we ever knew. Farewell, a long farewell, to that good Sir Arthur! We could have better spared a greater man. There is a grim irony in Death. We have in the House decrepit old men who seem to be tottering on the brink of the grave; some ill-tempered men, who are a joy to nobody; men, too, who are so afflicted with disease that life is a burden to them. But "the blind Fury" passes over all these, and snatches from us prematurely, when he seemed to be in the plenitude of health, one of the happiest, kindest, brightest of human beings.

MR. CHAPLIN.

In new-memberdom on the Conservative side of the House there has lately been a shaking among the dry bones, and something like intellectual life has appeared there. There has always been life of a sort, witness the cheers and groans that ever and anon broke forth. Moreover, now and then, a new member has arisen and spoken articulately, and with reasonable fluency; but in their speeches we discerned little, if any, intellectual life. At best merely a glimmering of it, and that only dull, misty, fuliginous, struggling under difficulties to become life, yet unsuccessfully,—like smouldering fire in a pile of damp weeds, which one often sees in our fields, emitting much smoke but no light or warmth. On Thursday last week, however, Mr. Chaplin rose, and, although his speech does not deserve the rapturous encomiums which Conservative papers awarded it, there certainly were in it evidences of active, and even vigorous, intellectual life in the mind that conceived it. The House recognised this phenomenon by loudly cheering the speaker. Mr. Disraeli expressed his recognition by giving Mr. Chaplin, when he sat down, a hearty shake of the hand; and Mr. Gladstone, too, when he rose to reply, paid him a graceful compliment. Chained to his seat, compelled to endure, night after night, the dull, heavy, inconsequential talk of the people behind him, this bright and vigorous speech of Mr. Chaplin must have been specially pleasant to Disraeli; and to Gladstone, though an opponent, we may be sure it was not unappreciated; for he, of all men, appreciates intellect, whether displayed by friend or foe. Mr. Henry Chaplin, member for Mid-Lincolnshire, elected last year, is the eldest son of the late Henry Chaplin. He was born in 1840, and is therefore only twenty-nine years old. He was educated at Harrow, and at Christ Church, Oxford. He is a "well-known leader of the turf." Is unmarried. "Unmarried!" Thereby hangs a tale. He was to have been married; but suddenly the lady preferred a lord to the commoner, at which preference, when we first saw Mr. Chaplin, we could but lift up our hands and wonder; for Mr. Chaplin is an exceedingly handsome man. He is tall, well made, and has a fair countenance, which, not to descend to particulars, is radiant with healthy life. But no coronet encircles his brow, and therefore, perhaps — But we will proceed no further in this direction. We in this column seldom advert to events of private life, and have only done so in this case that our readers may identify Mr. Chaplin. This, then, readers, is the Mr. Chaplin. It was thought strange that a leading member of the turf should make such a clever speech; and certainly Mr. Chaplin is an exception to the rule. There are several members—and some leading members—of the turf in the House. But they are all, to a man, as far as we know, silent members, and as incapable of making such a speech as Mr. Chaplin gave us as their horses are. The last leading member of the turf who spoke often was Lord George Bentinck; but, notwithstanding all that Disraeli, in his biography of the noble Lord, has done to place him upon a pedestal, he lives only in the recollection of the older members as one of the most wearisome of orators. And it must be acknowledged that, as a rule, horsey men off their own line are but dull people. Mr. Chaplin is, however, clearly an exception to the rule. He has talents beyond those required to make a book. He can master subjects quite out of his peculiar line; and in clear language, with graceful elocution and manners, can express his thoughts.

THE LEADER OF THE HOUSE.

Mr. Gladstone rose immediately after Mr. Chaplin. And now we will give at length the graceful compliment which the leader of the House paid to Mr. C. It is worthy of being reproduced, for no more graceful, finely-turned compliment was ever uttered in the House:—

The hon. member (said Mr. Gladstone) who has just sat down has admonished us, and myself in particular, that a sense of justice may grow dull under the influence of long Parliamentary experience; but I may say there is one thing that does not grow dull with me, and that is the sense of pleasure when I hear—whether upon these benches or upon those benches—an able, and at the same time frank, ingenious, and manly statement of such a character as to show me the man who makes it is a real addition to the moral and intellectual strength of Parliament.

In conception and expression this is perfect, and it has this special merit—it is not flattery. If Mr. Chaplin can maintain his footing on the elevation to which he quite unexpectedly leaped at a bound, he will be a real addition to the moral and intellectual thought of Parliament. And now, having called attention to this handsome eulogium, let us bring before the mind's eye the author of it as he presents himself, night after night, before the House of Commons. Mr. Gladstone has fought many stern battles here, gained many brilliant victories, and suffered some defeats; but he never before had to fight such a battle as that now being waged over the abolition of the Irish Church establishment, nor did he ever before shine forth so conspicuously, so brilliantly, as a leader. It used to be confidently prophesied by his foes, and feared by half-hearted friends, that when he should be installed as leader of his party he would certainly fail. "He has not, Sir," we have often heard from foes and friends, "the temper, the tact, the self-command, needful to lead his party;" and then invidious comparisons would be made. "Look how Palmerston used to lead our party, and how Disraeli manages his!" Well, how Disraeli led his party we all know, and where. He is indisputably a clever leader. It has been said that it was the blind leading the blind; but this it was not. The leader, at all events, was not blind. But, leaving this, it must certainly be allowed on all hands

that the Conservatives have been, especially during the last three years, very cleverly led—"Too cleverly by half," growl now in undertones some of the old Conservatives, as they survey the wreck of their party, and remember how numerous and compact it was some few years ago. "But for our clever leader," whispered a Conservative in our ear the other day, "we should not be now hopelessly battling against this Irish Church Bill." Then, as to Palmerston: his temper, and tact, and ability were unimpeachable. But was his real leading? We should rather call it jockeying. The truth is, readers, if you want to see real, honest, able, and even brilliant leading, you should come to the House now, any night when we are in Committee on this bill. As in modern times no leader has had so difficult a task to perform, so there has not been in the House since the days of Sir Robert Peel a man who could perform it so well as the Right Honourable William Ewart Gladstone is performing it. His temper is imperturbable; not once has a ripple disturbed his calm, placid self-possession. His tact—meaning not cunning, as Lord Palmerston's tact too often was, but nice perception, clear discernment—is conspicuous; whilst his knowledge, ever ready, like documents labelled and indorsed in the pigeon-holes of a lawyer's desk, is wonderful. And under this head remember that his opponents have each a special subject, and if each gets up his particular subject, that is all he has to do. But the leader has to know everything that can be known upon all subjects connected directly, collaterally, and remotely with this measure. In short, at every point of defence he must be impregnable, inexhaustible; and it is not too much to say that not in a single instance has Gladstone been found wanting. It may, indeed, be said of him, as was said of Macaulay, if you want to ascertain what Gladstone knows, you had better begin to catalogue what he does not know. The first thing which occurs to strangers as they watch this fight, is that the leader must have worked very hard to get up all this knowledge; and no doubt he has worked hard, but here is a surprising little fact that has come to our knowledge. Gladstone, notwithstanding the severe pressure upon his time and thoughts—a burden which to common minds would seem too heavy for any mortal to bear—is actually, *pari passu* with the progress of this bill, getting an important work of his through the press. The title of it is "Juventus Mundi"—something about the Homeric times, we believe, and it is to be out in three weeks. This is the right hon. gentleman's recreation, his pastime, his change of scene. Wearied at times with the struggles and contentions of the present age, he throws himself into the past—the *juventus mundi*—the youth of the world. Disgusted with Disraeli, Dr. Ball, and others, he goes off on a flying visit to the Homeric gods and heroes. But is he not weighed down with all this labour? Not a bit of it; we never saw him more springy and cheerful.

DISRAELI AND DOWSE.

The small passage of arms between Mr. Serjeant Dowse and Disraeli, on Monday night, was very amusing. The learned Serjeant brought forward a proviso to a clause. The matter or the meaning of the proviso need not be given. It did not pass. The learned Serjeant did not intend to push it. His constituents at Derry wished him to bring it forward merely to elicit the opinion of the Government thereon. Whereupon Mr. Disraeli rose, evidently bent upon a little fun, to relieve the dryness of the discussion, and, in his best manner, chaffed the learned gentleman until his feathers were all ruffled, like those of an angry hen when her chicks are in danger. "There was something," said Disraeli, "no doubt, charming and jovial in the learned Serjeant's manner as he delivered his sentiments; but he (Disraeli) did not think that the hon. member was justified in trying these experiments on the patience of the Committee to gratify the vanity of his constituents," &c., in the like strain, all which evoked loud laughter and cheers. As soon as Mr. Disraeli sat down, Mr. Gladstone, seeing how his learned friend's feathers were ruffled, kindly rose to smooth them down. But Mr. Dowse would not be comforted; and, when Gladstone retired, he leaped, with Irish impetuosity, to his feet, his broad face, usually so good-humoured, red with anger, and, if he could but have got a hearing, he would doubtless have given as good as he got; for, with a clear stage and no favour, we would back the learned Serjeant at chaffing, or in an encounter of wit, against the right hon. member for Bucks. But the Conservatives would not hear the learned Serjeant; taking the cue from their leader, they met him with volleys of chaffing cheers. To describe the scene accurately is, of course, impossible; but here is a small bit of it, photographed at the time as well as circumstances would allow:—"Angry Serjeant"—"Gentlemen opposite (volley of cheers), gentlemen opposite (volley of cheers), mingled with laughter, gentlemen opposite (volley still louder), gentlemen opposite"—uttered in a shriek which was heard above the storm—"dare not hear me" (Tremendous cheers and laughter). After this there was a slight lull, during which the learned Serjeant gave his opponents this vigorous kick in the pants—"I am glad I have elicited the opinion of the learned member for the Dublin University (Dr. Ball had spoken a few words), who is the only brains carrier of the party." There, gentlemen, take your change out of that. Would it not be wise of you in future to let the learned Serjeant alone? This gentleman has weapons, and with fair play can handle them. What do you think, readers, of this little thrust at the Bishops? "They have converted Church lands into perpetuities, the annual rents of which are £29,354 8s. 10d., the only conversion ever yet effected in Ireland by the Established Church?"

Imperial Parliament.

FRIDAY, APRIL 30.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

Lord WESTBURY moved the second reading of a bill for altering and amending the law relating to copyright in works of art; the main clause of the bill being a provision that the period of copyright should be extended over the life of an author and for thirty years after his or her death.

After remarks by Earl STANHOPE and the Earl of KIMBERLEY, the bill was read the second time.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE.

Mr. GLADSTONE moved certain resolutions to facilitate the progress of business in the House, which were agreed to, after some observations from members.

THE STATE OF IRELAND.

Mr. GRAYES proceeded, notwithstanding the request of the Premier, to comment upon the late agrarian offences perpetrated in Ireland. He stated that they were of a nature which shook public confidence, paralysed trade, and tended to undermine the peace and prosperity of the empire. Ireland never presented a more gloomy picture than at this moment; and he feared that much of the insecurity for life and property which prevailed in that country were to be traced to the mischievous influences inspired by the speeches of Mr. Gladstone and Mr. Bright on the land question and the false expectations of an early settlement of it which they had engendered in the minds of a sanguine and excitable people.

Mr. C. FORTESCUE, while lamenting the frequency of crime in Ireland, arising from the most part of the unsatisfactory relations between landlord and tenant, denied that the condition of the country in that respect was unprecedented, and reminded the House that there were many darker pages in the history of the country within the memory of living men. The Government, however, were doing all in their power for the repression of outrage, and the whole power of the law would be directed to the security of life and property.

Lord STANLEY did not impute blame to the Government for declining to pass any opinion upon the language of the Mayor of Cork without further information, although he thought sufficient had been established to show that the mere spectacle of such a man in such a place was a public scandal and an encouragement to disaffection. He feared, however, that the Government had made a mistake in releasing the Fenians. Mercy to a conquered enemy was all very well; but it was desirable to ascertain that he was thoroughly conquered before he was pardoned. Neither did he blame the Government for not bringing in a land bill for Ireland in the present Session, as their hands were already sufficiently full; but he thought they were bound to make a declaration of their general views and principles on the land question, which would satisfy the reasonable expectations of the tenants, yet at the same time give an assurance that the rights of property would be respected.

The discussion was continued by Mr. Sherlock, Mr. Fothergill, and Lord C. Hamilton, the latter of whom made a fierce attack upon Mr. Bright, whom he accused of sympathy with Fenianism and of exciting the Irish by holding out hopes that the property of the landlords would be confiscated for the benefit of the peasantry.

Mr. BRIGHT was quite prepared to accept the responsibility of any observations he had made in reference to the tenure of land in Ireland, and he repeated his conviction that there would be no peace in that country until the population, by some means or other (and he was prepared to propose a means), were placed in greater numbers than they now were in the possession of the soil of their own country. He did not, however, think there was cause for panic, although the condition of affairs demanded the earnest consideration of every thoughtful man in the community. He was not disposed to palliate the shocking crimes lately committed in Ireland or to underrate the gravity of the situation of affairs there, but he was persuaded that no act of repression should be sanctioned by Parliament unless accompanied by measures of a remedial and ameliorative character. The former policy of England towards Ireland was fatal to the interests of Irish landlords, and there could be no more disastrous delusion than to suppose that a continuation of it could bring back peace or prosperity to the land.

Lord J. MANNERS, following in the wake of Lord Stanley, called upon the Government not to shelter themselves under the ambiguous utterances of Mr. Bright, but to declare at once the policy which they intended to recommend on the land question.

Mr. GLADSTONE contrasted the excited language of "nervous politicians" like Lord C. Hamilton and Lord J. Manners with the studied moderation of Lord Stanley; and, having disclaimed on his own part and on that of Mr. Bright the use of language calculated to excite delusive expectations on the land question in Ireland, asserted that the condition of Ireland, which all parties in the House equally deplored, was to be traced to long years of misgovernment, and to that baneful religious ascendancy which Parliament was now endeavouring to extirpate.

After several other hon. members had spoken, Mr. HARDY taunted the Government with want of candour in declining to state their intentions on the land question, and insisted that police aid and not policy was their cry.

Mr. LIDDELL, Sir J. Gray, and Mr. MACFIE added a few words (the former representing the annual number of English murders to be far in excess of those committed in Ireland), and at midnight the debate was brought to a conclusion.

MONDAY, MAY 3.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

The House spent the greater portion of its sitting in the discussion of two rather incongruous topics—the Turco-Persian boundary and the invalid Bishops in the south-west of England. Upon the former subject Lord Clarendon was able to assure the House that a correct map may be expected about July or August; and upon the latter Lord Granville held out hopes that the Government will before long introduce into Parliament a measure to provide for the retirement of Bishops who are unable to discharge the functions of their office.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

QUESTIONS.

A somewhat singular inquiry by Mr. Femberton as to whether the Lord Chancellor approves of the newly-selected site for the law courts was met by Mr. LAYARD with the obvious reply that the bill which is to authorise the acquisition of that site will be a Government measure. Then Mr. Gladstone was interrogated by Colonel French as to the length of the Whitsun holidays, and informed the House that, if the Irish Church Bill is reported on Thursday, May 13, he shall propose an adjournment from that day until the following Monday week.

THE IRISH CHURCH BILL.

When the House got into Committee upon the Irish Church Bill, the 50th and 51st clauses were agreed to without difficulty. Clause 52, which provides for the redemption of the tithe-rent charge by the landowners who pay it, led to a good deal of discussion, and several amendments were proposed. First Mr. Henry Herbert proposed to alter the number of years' purchase from twenty-two and a half to eighteen years' purchase; then Mr. Fawcett desired to omit the provisions which enable the payment to be made by instalments; and, lastly, Mr. Kalkes asked the House to introduce words which would enable landowners to appropriate this rent charge to religious purposes. All these amendments were opposed by the Government. Two of these amendments were withdrawn, and Mr. Fawcett allowed his proposal to be negatived without a division. This course, however, the member for Brighton pursued only with a view to getting rid of the clause altogether. Upon the question that it should stand part of the bill he divided the House, but was defeated by a majority of 155—181 to 33. In the course of the discussion which preceded this result, Mr. Fawcett stated that some dozen or more of his friends had expressed their sympathy with his opinion, but had informed him that they could not vote with him, because they would not oppose the Prime Minister. Lord John Manners took advantage of the remark to commiserate Liberal members upon the bondage in which they were held by the Government; and drew from Mr. Gladstone—who at the same time denied the existence of any such coercion as the noble Lord had supposed to exist—an ironical compliment upon the infantine simplicity of mind which he must have preserved if he was unacquainted with any sacrifices of personal conviction among the members of the Conservative party. Upon clause 53 there was a good deal of discussion as to the terms upon which the lessees of Church lands should be allowed to purchase perpetuities; and an amendment proposed by Mr. Serjeant Dowse, with the intimation that he did not intend to press it to a division, provoked from Mr. Disraeli the observation that time was being wasted in the discussion of unreal amendments introduced to flatter the vanity of constituents or clients. The learned Serjeant retorted upon the right hon. gentleman that his amendment would be real enough if he imitated the example which he had so often set, and went into the lobby with a hopeless following; and the member for Bucks rejoined with an ingenious confusion of the expressions *secula seculorum* and *toties quoties*, which had been more than once employed by the member for Londonderry in his speech. The amendment was ultimately withdrawn, and the clause was agreed to. Clause 56, providing for the compensation of Presbyterian ministers after the cessation of the Regium Donum, gave rise to a good deal of conversation as to the opinions entertained by Irish Protestant Dissenters of this measure; and once again the hon. and learned member for Londonderry was called up by an attack from the Conservative benches. In this instance his assailant was Lord George Hamilton, and he had no difficulty in showing that the noble member for Middlesex had founded his charge upon a misunderstanding of what he had really said on a previous occasion. The proposal to negative clause 57, giving compensation to the professors of Belfast College—with a view to dealing with the subject in a manner different from that proposed in the section—alarmed the Protestant susceptibilities of Mr. Aytoun, Mr. Whalley, and Mr. Newdegate, and caused a partial anticipation of the promised debate upon Maynooth. The clause was, however, negatived without a division, and after the following section had been agreed to, the Chairman reported progress.

TUESDAY, MAY 4.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

The Sea-Birds Preservation Bill and the Civil Service Pensions Bill passed through Committee; and the Militia Bill, the Lands Clauses Consolidation Amendment Bill, and the Consolidated Fund (£17,000,000) Bill, were each read the third time and passed.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

The House met for the first time this Session at two o'clock.

QUESTIONS.

Mr. CARDWELL, in answer to Sir R. Anstruther, said that an order had been issued forbidding the marking of soldiers a second time with the letter "D."

Mr. MONSELL, in answer to Sir H. Verney, gave some satisfactory assurances as to the prospects of the dockyard artisans in Canada, who are, however, to enjoy only the same facilities as those given to other emigrants.

Questions were asked relative to the seizure of an American ship in British waters by the Spaniards; and to the total cost of the Abyssinian war, which the CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER said was, as far as could be calculated, £8,773,000.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL FOR IRELAND said, in answer to Mr. Dawson, that the words attributed to the Mayor of Cork had, unfortunately, been used by him at the Fenian banquet, and that Government had therefore come to the conclusion that he should be removed from his office. Leave to introduce a bill for that purpose would accordingly be asked next day.

Mr. GLADSTONE announced his intention, in case they should make the progress he anticipated in Committee on the Irish Church Bill, to propose that the House should adjourn for the Whitsun holidays from Thursday, the 18th inst., to Thursday, the 27th inst.

THE IRISH CHURCH BILL.

The Irish Church Bill was then again committed, and the consideration of the clauses resumed at the 39th, which provides for the repeal of the Acts of Parliament relating to Maynooth College, except the sections which incorporated the trustees of that institution, and enabled them to hold land. Mr. Whalley, in moving an amendment to strike out the exception from the clause, said that the feeling among the Protestants of the United Kingdom was that the Government were pledged to abolish Maynooth altogether. The course now proposed to be taken, however, would confirm, strengthen, and extend it, and at the same time permanently endow a college of which a foreign Sovereign was the virtual head. Mr. Gladstone met with a point-blank denial the assertion that he had given any such pledge as Mr. Whalley had mentioned, and cited the fourth of the resolutions agreed to by the House on May 4, 1868, which set forth that it was right and necessary that the grant to Maynooth and the

Regium Donum should be discontinued, due regard being had to all existing interests. This, he argued, did not constitute any pledge for the absolute and unconditional repeal of the Maynooth Acts. After a rather long debate, the Committee rejected Mr. Whalley's amendment by 324 to 196. A discussion was next raised by Sir G. Jenkinson, who proposed to expunge that part of the clause which enacted that fourteen times the annual payment to Maynooth should be appropriated in a lump sum to the college. The hon. Baronet argued that this was contrary to the pledge, written and spoken, of the Premier not to apply any portion of the funds of the Protestant Establishment to any such purpose. Debate was continued until the time arrived for suspending the sitting, and then, in moving that the Chairman report progress, Mr. Gladstone informed the Committee that the three Commissioners whom he should name to carry out the objects of the bill were, Viscount Monck, the Right Hon. J. A. Lawson, one of the Judges of the Court of Common Pleas in Ireland, and Mr. George Alexander Hamilton. The House resumed, and progress was reported.

THE COAST LIGHTHOUSES.

On the reassembling of the House at nine o'clock, Mr. HEADLAM proposed a resolution, declaring that the practice of charging upon the shipping of this country and the shipping of foreign nations the cost of maintaining the lights, buoys, and beacons which light and protect the shores of the United Kingdom should cease, as being a practice unworthy of a great maritime nation, whose ships are afforded the use of the lights of other countries free of all expense. The motion, which was ultimately withdrawn, gave rise to a long debate.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 6. HOUSE OF COMMONS.

THE MAYOR OF CORK.

Mr. GLADSTONE asked that the orders of the day might be suspended, in order to enable the Attorney-General for Ireland to move for leave to bring in the "O'Sullivan's Disability Bill," which, he said, it was the object of Government to push forward, so as to have the second reading on Tuesday, when the Mayor of Cork could, if he thought fit, be heard by counsel against it.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL FOR IRELAND, after referring to the conduct of Mr. O'Sullivan, showed a precedent for the present proceeding on the measures adopted by Parliament during the Porten riots.

Mr. BOUVIER suggested that the bill should have been originated in the House of Lords.

Mr. MAQUIRE did his best to defend the Mayor, on the ground that he had not used the words in the spirit attributed to him, or, if he did, it was after supper, when he was excited; and concluded his speech by urging that the Government were at least bound to give Mr. O'Sullivan the fullest opportunity of proving his innocence.

Mr. DISRAELI followed, and in his most biting manner, declared that the Mayor might well be excused a few errors of judgment which he had doubtless fallen into through seeing the gaols of Ireland opened and the Fenian prisoners released; and complained that the House should be asked to pass a bill of pains and penalties "on the ipse dixit of an Irish Attorney-General."

Mr. CHICHESTER FORTESCUE replied, and Mr. GLADSTONE soon followed and dealt very effectively with the contemptuous expressions of Mr. Disraeli.

Leave was afterwards given to bring in the bill.

THURSDAY, MAY 6. HOUSE OF COMMONS.

THE IRISH BISHOPS.

Mr. MEVOY asked the First Lord of the Treasury whether, upon the bill for the disestablishment of the Irish Church becoming law, the Prelates of that Church will come under the operation of the Ecclesiastical Titles Act?

Mr. GLADSTONE replied that the intention of the bill was that the archbishops, bishops, and deans should retain their titles and precedence. They had freely assented to an amendment on the thirteenth clause of the Irish Church Bill moved by Mr. Disraeli, securing to the present prelates and those who should be appointed before the final disestablishment in January, 1871, the enjoyment of their titles; but he believed that the effect of that amendment would be to render it illegal for the persons appointed after that time to assume the titles of archbishop, bishop, or dean of any cathedral city in Ireland. By an exception in the Ecclesiastical Titles Act, the bishops of the Scotch Episcopal Church were allowed to assume titles. This was a state of things that, in his opinion, should not continue.

THE IRISH CHURCH BILL.

The House then went into Committee on this bill, and resumed the consideration of the thirty-ninth clause, which relates to the compensation in the case of the College of Maynooth.

Sir G. JENKINSON moved the omission of that part of the clause which provides for the compensation of Maynooth out of the funds received from the Church of Ireland.

Colonel BARTLEY charged the Government with having misled the country by pledges that when the disestablishment of the Irish Church took place the Maynooth grant should also cease, and none of the property of the Irish Church should be applied to the purposes of Roman Catholics.

Mr. GLADSTONE denied that he or any of his friends had given any pledge that there should be any distinction made between the Presbyterians and Maynooth.

Mr. GREENE protested against the funds of the Irish Church being appropriated to the purposes of the College of Maynooth.

Mr. CARDEN would vote according to the opinions he had always held.

The LORD ADVOCATE said Scotland was as Presbyterian now as in 1640; and they had ever held that it was wrong to force an alien Church on the majority. He denied that it was understood by the Scotch constituencies that no compensation to Presbyterians or Roman Catholics was to be made out of the revenues of the Irish Church.

Sir J. ELPHINSTONE asserted that the Scottish nation really believed that no part of the plunder of the Irish Church was to be handed over to the Roman Catholics. The Government were in league with Cardinal Cullen to endow Popery.

Mr. LUTHER objected to the endowment of Maynooth on principle.

Mr. AYTON believed that the clause was endowment, and not confiscation, and he should therefore oppose it.

Mr. WARD HUNT had no objection to give compensation, but he objected to the form in which the clause gave it.

Mr. NEWDEGATE asserted that the previous declarations of Mr. Gladstone and Mr. Bright had led the country to believe that no part of the Irish Church property should be given to any religious sect. This clause created an endowment, and he should therefore support the amendment.

Mr. ELLIS opposed the amendment.

Sir F. HEYGATE could not vote in favour of endowing Maynooth.

Mr. M'ARTHUR denied that in supporting the clause he was attacking the Protestant Church or acting in alliance with Cardinal Cullen. He was guided by the principles of justice.

Mr. HENLEY understood that no part of the Church property was to be applied to other than Irish purposes. Mr. Gladstone had avoided the question ingeniously as to why the compensation should come out of the Church property rather than the Consolidated Fund. That was the question before the House, and that was the question on which he should vote.

Mr. BRIGHT said if a proposal had been made to make compensation out of the Consolidated Fund there would have been a protest from one end of the country to the other. If the compensation should come out of the taxes it would serve to the increase of the surplus, upon which the members were divided. The House had already sanctioned compensation for the Regium Donum. The opposition to compensate Maynooth was dictated by opposition to the Catholic religion.

Mr. DISRAELI denied that any animosity had ever prevailed on the part of the Conservative party against Maynooth. He was for compensation to Maynooth, and a liberal compensation. Having said this, he must say it was understood last year that the compensation to Maynooth was not to be made out of the confiscated property of the Irish Church; and the country at large was filled with astonishment that the Government should have done exactly the reverse of what their declaration led the country to believe. He was prepared to give compensation, not out of Church property, but from the Imperial Exchequer.

Mr. FORTESCUE contended that the Consolidated Fund ought not to be charged with compensation to anybody, and it was never contemplated by Government to do so.

The Committee divided:—For the amendment, 192; against, 318; majority against the amendment, 126.

After the rejection of amendments proposed by Messrs. AYTON and WHALLEY, which caused prolonged discussion, the clause was ultimately agreed to.

The O'CONNELL MONUMENT, DUBLIN.—The programme is published in Dublin of a ceremonial to take place, on Friday, the 14th inst., in connection with the removal of the remains of Daniel O'Connell from the vault in which they have lain for twenty-two years to the new altar-tomb in Glasnevin Cemetery, raised in commemoration of "The Liberator."

The inscriptions on this tomb, which is large and elaborately ornamented, are such as these:—"The Liberator of his Country;" "The Apostle of Civil and Religious Liberty all over the World;" "The Apostle of Moral Force;" "The Emancipator of his Catholic Fellow-Subjects." On the wall over the entrance to the crypt is the legend, "My body to Ireland; my heart to Rome; my soul to Heaven." The ceremony is to commence at half-past ten in the forenoon, and Cardinal Cullen and his clergy will officiate on the occasion. A position in the procession is reserved for the "members of the corporations throughout Ireland, to be closed by the Lord Mayor, aldermen, and councillors of Dublin." "The Catholic members of both branches of the Legislature, Privy Councillors, and members of the judicial bench," will follow; and the clergy bring up the rear of the procession surrounding the coffin. A sermon will be preached and high mass offered up.

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SATURDAY, MAY 8, 1869.

SOME TOPICS OF THE HOUR.

It is not necessary for the interest of a topic that it should be what is called imperial. One of the most interesting bills ever brought before Parliament is one which will now very speedily be an Act, and have the force of law, and which relates to the destruction of sea-gulls (destroyed partly because their feathers were found useful in adorning ladies' bonnets): a subject that has been a lively theme of comment in the newspapers for the last year or so. It is scarcely possible to think of a sea-gull without some degree of pleasure—the very word brings green water and fresh odours to the mind, with all the suggestion of grace which belongs to the flight of these birds, and of the boundlessness which belongs to the ocean. But who would have thought of their being made the subject of Acts of Parliament? Suppose a secret society, pledged to root up daisies, were stealthily to go about to denude the meadows of the "wee, modest, crimson-tipped flower," should we have the solemn machinery of legislation put in action to protect the blossom? It seems that the sea-gulls are of actual use to mariners; yet it might be contended that every Englishman is born into a world in which daisies are as much a part of its natural furniture as grass, and that whoever wilfully and without excuse destroyed the flowers robbed his neighbour of a joy to which he was as much entitled as to the common air. The question about the sea-gulls is nearly as finely drawn, however; and a few of the incidental points are really curious. St. Kilda is exempted from the operation of the bill, because the inhabitants eat sea-gulls, and the catching and selling of the greasy birds is an industry by itself. Then there was a clause for punishing any person found in possession of sea-gull's eggs except for purposes of food. On this it was rightly observed that the only proof that the eggs were intended for eating would be the fact of seeing them eaten, and that the clause would punish a naturalist for collecting the eggs: so the clause was lost. It also appears that large numbers of the eggs are collected for some manufacturing purposes. Who would have thought so much could be said about sea-gulls? We legislate against cruelty to cats, dogs, donkeys, and horses; but these creatures are at our doors, and we do not reflect that they are quite unconscious of our care for their welfare; but there is something inexpressibly odd in the thought of these quaint birds—with their blunted craik-craik, and their habit of sitting on small islands in solemn convocation, with their foolish little beaks all turned one way—flying or squatting around our coasts, wholly unaware of the pains we are taking to prevent their being shot.

One police incident of the week is so striking as well to deserve being taken out of the category of matters which are only read to be forgotten. At Lambeth Court a poor Irish boy, of twelve years old, named Michael Quilligan, having been so cruelly beaten by his mother that the magistrate sent her to prison, steadfastly refused to give evidence against her. The little fellow was threatened, and at last imprisoned for a day; but nothing would induce him to say a word against his mother. He was "severely lectured" by the magistrate for his "obstinacy;" but not a human being who reads the story will feel anything but admiration of his firmness. Law and order are all very well; but, if those great primitive feelings which govern the conduct of people like Michael Quilligan were not respected, there would remain nothing for the law to care for.

At a large meeting in St. James's Hall in favour of the "Permissive Prohibitory Liquor Bill," Archdeacon Sandford, the chairman, expressed his regret that he could not get Dr. Tait, the Archbishop of Canterbury, to "swallow"—that was his phrase—the Permissive Prohibitory Bill, though he knew that his Grace was earnestly labouring in the cause of temperance. Some of us will not share the feeling which gave point to the "though," and will admire the manly

English spirit of Dr. Tait, against whom the Archdeacon, with some bad taste, pitted Dr. Manning.

A curious little sign of the times occurred on Thursday, Ascension Day, in the Committee-rooms of the House of Commons. From time immemorial it has been the understood rule that the House should attend prayers at St. Margaret's, and that Committees should not sit till two o'clock in the afternoon. This year only two Committees out of a large number adhered to the ancient tradition! Such a thing has not been known within living memory! Where are we drifting to?

SAYINGS AND DOINGS.

THE QUEEN, with their Royal Highnesses Princesses Louise and Beatrice and Prince Leopold, is expected to leave Osborne and return to Windsor on Saturday (this day). The Royal family will, it is supposed, leave Windsor for Balmoral on or about the 14th inst.

PRINCE ARTHUR arrived in Port Erin Harbour, Isle of Man, from Ireland, at half-past twelve o'clock on Wednesday afternoon, and was met there by the Governor. He had an enthusiastic reception. The weather was too stormy for landing at Douglas, but was fine afterwards. The Prince arrived at Douglas, by carriage, at four o'clock. There was a grand ball in the evening. The greatest enthusiasm prevailed.

THE EMPEROR OF THE FRENCH received, on Sunday last, a deputation from the British Institution of Civil Engineers, which had been appointed to present to him his diploma as an honorary member of the society. His Majesty expressed his gratification at the honour conferred upon him, and invited the members of the commission to a reception at the Tuilleries on Monday and to a dinner on Tuesday evening.

HER MAJESTY has granted the dignity of Knight to Mr. James Martin, late First Minister and Attorney-General in the colony of New South Wales, and to Mr. Robert Officer, Speaker of the House of Assembly of the colony of Tasmania.

THE MARQUIS OF BUTE, in token of gratitude for his conversion to Roman Catholicism and as a thank-offering, is about founding and endowing a magnificent hospital for lepers in Jerusalem.

MR. HORSMAN is a candidate for the representation of Liskeard, now vacant in consequence of the death of Sir Arthur Buller.

A NUMBER OF THE REFUGEE PRINCES OF JAPAN are attempting to establish a republic in the island of Yesso.

COUNT DE WALDECK, of Paris, although 103 years of age, has sent to the Paris Fine-Arts Exhibition a picture representing not fewer than 255 persons. The veteran artist enjoys excellent health, and takes strong walking exercise every day. He is married to an English lady of forty, and has a son aged eighteen.

PROFESSOR GOLDWIN SMITH has presented to Cornell University, U.S. his private historical library, which numbers 3000 volumes.

THE MAYOR OF MARSEILLES has forbidden the use of velocipedes on the foot-pavements and in the public walks; also the practice of those vehicles in the streets by learners.

THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF DUBLIN has passed resolutions expressing confidence in the promises of Mr. Gladstone and Mr. Bright to bring in a measure dealing with the Irish land question.

MR. JUSTICE WILLES, speaking for the Court of Common Pleas, on Wednesday, decided that Mr. Birley, one of the members returned by Manchester, is not a Government contractor in the legal sense of the word, and that, therefore, he is entitled to retain his seat in Parliament.

CAPTAIN TARLETON, who farms ninety acres near Athlone, but is not a landlord, was shot dead, last week, in a lane on his own farm. He had just left his workmen in an adjoining field, and was last seen alive by them at half-past one o'clock, but the body was not discovered till five.

MR. STEPHEN W. FLANAGAN, Q.C., the new Judge of the Landed Estates Court in Ireland, is a barrister of position. He was called to the Bar in 1838, and was formerly an officer of the Encumbered Estates Court. He enjoyed a pension on account of his abolished office, which is now saved to the public purse by his being appointed in a fresh capacity.

MR. P. W. CLAYDEN, one of the Liberal candidates for Nottingham at the last election, was last week presented with a very handsome ornamental clock by the working men of Nottingham, as a testimonial of their gratitude for the manner in which he fought their battle at the election.

THE FENIAN AMNESTY COMMITTEE in DUBLIN announce that they have sent £510 to Australia, to give £15 each to the thirty-four political prisoners released there.

THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS has decided that the judgment of Mr. Justice Blackburn, which seated Mr. Henry James, in the room of Mr. Serjeant Cox, for Taunton, must be regarded as final and conclusive, and that all further proceedings against the return of the present member must be stayed.

PARTIAL STRIKES OR LOCK-OUTS OF MASONS are now going on at Bolton, Bradford, and Wolverhampton. A strike among the Huddersfield masons has been averted.

THE HOLBORN VALLEY VIADUCT is in a state of progress which permits the City Corporation to arrange for its opening, and we understand that that ceremony is appointed to take place in the month of July. The new bridge at Blackfriars is also to be opened in June or July next.

AN OUTRAGE, of a more mysterious than painful character, is reported from Cork. On Tuesday night seven men entered the premises of a carrier in the city, and carried off a box, which they selected from ten, belonging to Captain Mackay, an Engineer officer at Camden Fort. The contents of the box are unknown, and it had but recently arrived from England.

MR. RUPERT KETTLE, on Tuesday, arbitrated in the dispute between the builders and the carpenters and joiners of Manchester, and made an award in support of payment by the hour and against the application of the men for a reduction of the hours of labour. The East Lancashire Weavers' Association and the Blackburn power-loom weavers have issued a circular recommending the acceptance of the proposed reduction of 5 per cent from the Blackburn standard list of wages.

THE GREAT WESTERN RAILWAY COMPANY recently completed the conversion of the whole of the northern division of its extensive system to the narrow gauge. During the past month the goods traffic increased to the extent of £12,000 as compared with April, 1868—a result materially attributable to the uniformity of gauge.

"THE FEMALE BLONDIN" was crossing a rope 60 ft. high during a performance at Bolton, on Monday, when she missed her footing. She fell, grasped the rope with her hands, and was afterwards caught by the crowd below. Ten thousand persons witnessed the spectacle amid intense excitement. She escaped with little injury.

THE HIGHER RANGES of fells and mountains around the lake district of Westmorland were covered with snow on Monday morning to the depth of three or four inches. The cold was remarkable. During the day heavy falls of rain occurred, accompanied by a sharp breeze from the north-west. Last Saturday the thermometer registered 90 deg. in the sun; on Sunday the mercury fell to below 50 deg.

HER MAJESTY'S SHIP SPITEFUL is reported to have left Trincomalee on March 18, with orders to take possession, in the name of the Queen, of the Nicobar Islands, situated between the Andamans and Sumatra, and inhabited by a half-savage race. The *Bombay Gazette* says it seems to be expected that the islands will come under the Government of India.

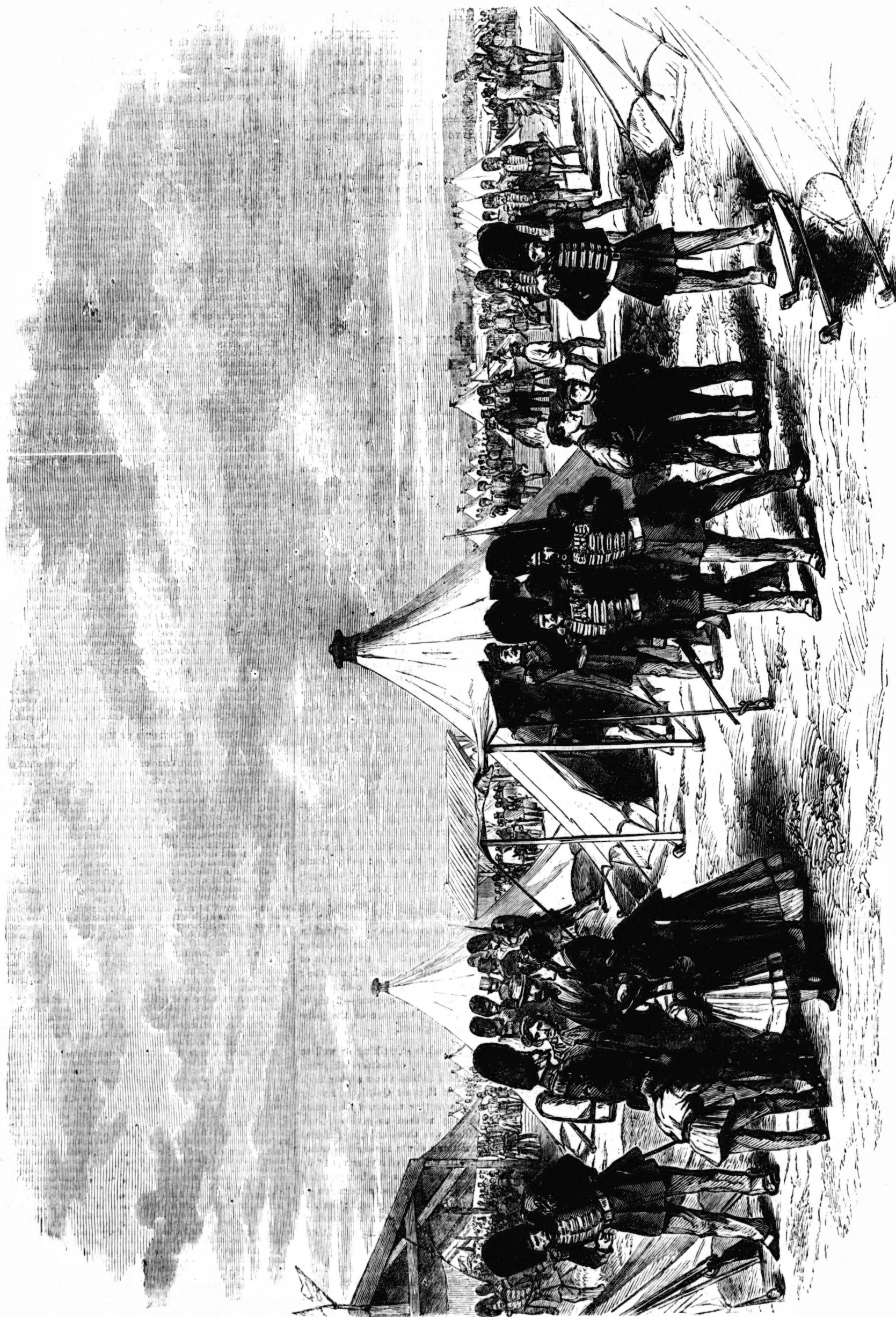
A MAN WAS SCALDED TO DEATH, a few days back, in a manufactory of perfumery at Montreuil, near Paris. The deceased was standing on a plank across a vat of boiling lees for the purpose of taking out a portion of the liquid with a large iron ladle; some of the soapy composition had, however, been spilt under his feet, and caused him to slip and fall in. Although he was taken out immediately, he was already dead and frightfully disfigured.

MR. HURST (L.) and Major Aldridge (C.), candidates for Horsham, having polled the same number of votes at the late election, the Mayor returned both. This naturally led to petitions; but eventually those of the Conservatives were withdrawn, and Mr. Hurst admitted to be the member duly elected. Mr. Justice Willes on Monday consented to the withdrawal of the adverse petition, and Mr. Hurst is now M.P. for Horsham.

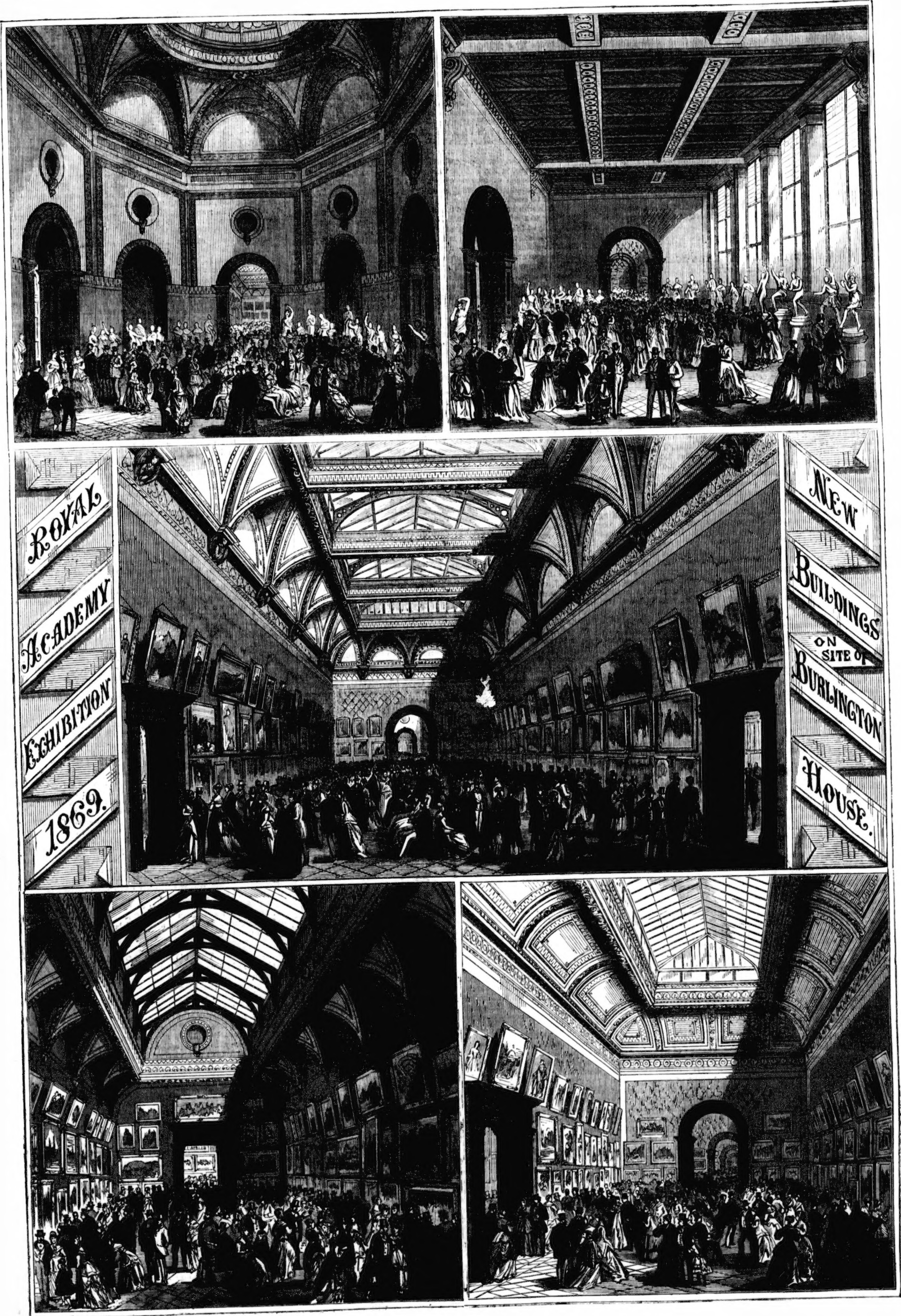
AN ELABORATE RETURN, which was moved for by Mr. Baines, shows the number of cotton, woollen, shoddy, worsted, flax, hemp, and other factories subject to the Factories Act in each county of the United Kingdom, and giving many other minute respecting factories. In the whole kingdom there are 6403 factories, in which 854,243 persons are employed.

A DEMONSTRATION in favour of the Permissive Bill was held in St. James's Hall on Tuesday evening. Archdeacon Sandford was in the chair; and amongst the speakers were Sir Wilfrid Lawson, M.P.; Archbishop Manning; Dr. Brewer, M.P.; and Mr. Dalway, M.P. Resolutions were passed denouncing drunkenness as the cause of an alarming amount of pauperism and crime, and calling upon the reformed Parliament to apply some efficient measure for the remedy of the existing evils.

THE SPINNERS AND MINDERS OF PRESTON are willing to work at a reduction of 5 per cent on wages, and the majority have now resumed work on those terms. Four firms in the town, however, still insist on the reduction of 10 per cent, and the strike is now confined to these—in all about 400 spinners and their dependents being out of employ. Operatives connected with the Spinners and Minders' Association continue to emigrate to America.



A REVIEW AT THE CAMP OF ST. MAUR: RETURN OF SOLDIERS TO THEIR TENTS.



REVIEW AT THE CAMP AT SAINT MAUR.

THE French camp at Saint Maur, which is this year composed of about 2000 men, is now established; and our Illustration represents the closing scene of the review which celebrated the installation. The ceremony which took place on Sunday, April 25, commenced by the performance of high mass on the most elevated point of the plateau of Gravelle. It had been reported that a chapel would be erected, but between the racecourse and the last line of the tents stood a very simple construction of stakes and planks which served for the high altar, ornamented with field flowers and branches of lilac, and the whole shaded by green drapery formed into a kind of open tent or canopy, beneath which the priest conducted the solemn service, his assistants standing in the open beneath the canopy of the sky, and on a verdant carpet studded with simple daisies. The camp is formed in the same manner as that of last year, the ranges of tents occupying the large space between the fort of Gravelle, the Imperial farm, and the racecourse. The visitors are permitted to go about at their own sweet will, and may be even seen at breakfast in the canteens, where it is declared that the provisions are not inferior to ordinary restaurants. It is only during the time of drill, manoeuvres, or reviews, when the tents are left to the care of sentinels, that access to them is refused to the public. Our Engraving represents the return of the troops to camp after the review by Brigade-General La Croix, which took place at noon after the conclusion of the religious ceremony.

FINE ARTS.

EXHIBITION OF THE ROYAL ACADEMY.
FIRST NOTICE.

It is fitting that the hundred-and-first anniversary of the great national art-exhibition should be held in a building belonging to the Academy itself. It has taken a century to attain to this position, but no one can deny that the gallery to which the public is invited is worthy of the institution and the occasion. If not the finest in Europe, it is certainly second to none in the essential characteristics required in a place where a large number of paintings, embracing every variety of style, size, and subject, are to be displayed. The Academy has at length reason to congratulate itself on the possession of a building which will bear comparison with the most celebrated European galleries; and the change from the old crowded and inconvenient rooms at Trafalgar-square to the fine series of saloons at the great building in Piccadilly, has already been appreciated alike by artists and visitors; by the former, because their works are so placed as to be better seen and understood, and by the latter, because they have neither to crane their necks in unavailing efforts to distinguish pictures that have been "skied," nor to kneel painfully in order to examine below the line. It was reported by incorrigible grumblers and gloomy anticipators that the hanging would be worse than ever at the new building, but at the first casual glance round the rooms this statement was contradicted, and whatever desirable changes may have to be sought for in the system of reception or rejection of paintings sent in for exhibition, there can be little but praise for the manner in which the hanging committee has done its work. Before speaking of the pictures in this admirable exhibition, it is necessary to notice the complete arrangement of the catalogue, which is so divided that each section of it refers to a separate gallery, the number of which, as inscribed over the doorway of the room itself, also heads the pages of that portion of the catalogue which refers to it. There are ten of these galleries besides the lecture-room, which is principally devoted to miniatures, architectural drawings and engravings; and the sculpture gallery. The central hall, from which the galleries open, and the light and airy vestibule, are also arranged to contain the exhibition of sculpture, which cannot be said to be of a high character or very encouraging in the subjects selected. The numbers of the pictures are from left to right; and, following this rule, the first gallery is on the left, and leads to the rest in the same order of progression. We shall be compelled, in the present notice, to confine our attention to the first four rooms, leaving the rest till next week.

The first picture that strikes the visitor, then, is Mr. Pott's "Fire at a Theatre" (8); and it may be called a striking performance without using the words invidiously, since there is remarkable vigour in the figures, and a bold, if not an altogether successful, management of the strong lights and shadows. The worst fault of it is a kind of artificiality beyond—and, so to speak, got out of—the staginess of the subject—an objection which will be less urgent when the difficulty of natural treatment is considered. We have already noticed Mr. Barnes's charming picture, "The Last Rose of Summer" (6), and are glad to find that our hopes of its obtaining a good place in the exhibition have been realised. "The Last of the Spanish Armada" (14), by Mr. C. E. Johnson, represents a crewless vessel nearing the west coast of Scotland, where a company of wild and half-savage wreckers are awaiting it. There is much suggestion of power in the work, but the treatment of the subject is scarcely so complete as it might easily have been made. Mr. J. E. Hodgson's "Arab Storyteller" (15) is attractive because of the remarkable variety in the faces of that desert party—from the grizzled stolid patriarch to the wondering boy or the surprised Nubian. There is a want of finish of details, such as that which leaves us to wonder whether the raconteur holds a pie-dish or a tambourine in his hand. But we cannot always have strength and finish together, and should perhaps be satisfied to have either. A very charming little picture, called "Hetty" (24), by Mr. V. Prinsep, will, we fear, make a good many people covetous. It is simple enough—just a dairymaid making butter in a dairy; but such a dairymaid (we had almost said such butter, only that it is not yet completed, though you can imagine it as you look at the picture!) and such a dainty, clean array, and yet withal so real and true to nature, we would go far to see. A word for a very fine picture of real, genuine English carthorses, by Mrs. Newcomen (25), in a rural scene where we can almost see the dust from their honest hoofs and hear their satisfied gurgle as they drink; and a passing look at "Going to School" (27), in which Mr. G. A. Storey has introduced a couple of jolly little boys (portraits) in a way that makes us wish we could reform portrait-painting altogether. Those two little fellows, going with their satchels along by the wall, where the pink and white blossoms hang over ready to strew their path with flowers, are portraiture and picture in one. We leave Sir Edwin Landseer's lions, as subjects that most of us have had a little too much of, and go to another historical picture, "The Price of Victory" (46), by Mr. C. W. Cope, R.A. It represents Dr. Hume reporting the casualties of Waterloo to the Duke of Wellington on the morning after the battle. It is probably true to the account of the interview; but, if so, we cannot help asking why paint it! However interesting historically, it is an ugly picture; and it is no excuse to say that even a victorious Duke, dirty, unshaven, and in his night-shirt, cannot be made a pleasing object on canvas unless he be treated from a different point of view to that chosen by the artist in this picture. A puzzling picture is Miss J. Escombe's "Drapery" (49), and we don't doubt that her young lady in that great gaudy Japanese dressing-gown, reflected in a cheval-glass on one side and painting her own portrait and that of the cheval-glass on the other, will be a great attraction to half the light-headed visitors to the exhibition, though we are quite ready to acknowledge its merits. Mr. G. Smith, in his "Game of Speculation" (54), is also pretty certain to obtain a large amount of popular notice; not that there is anything really natural in his work, except the girl engaged in getting down the plates from the farmhouse dresser, and those preparing the supper in the next room. The players assembled round the table are figures adopted by the artist to tell a story which would have been better told by real characters. The work is good, but it follows those old masters who put sentimental swains into rural "costumes" instead of into smock-frocks and velvet shooting-jackets or frieze coats.

Mr. G. W. Brownlow has sent a pretty little picture, entitled "The First Lesson in Straw-Plaiting" (57), and with that we reach the

last of the first gallery—Mr. Marcus Stone's "Princess Elizabeth obliged to attend Mass with her Sister Mary" (60). This is a more ambitious theme than Mr. Stone has previously chosen, and he has succeeded in establishing his right to aspire: none the less that he has been careful not to claim remarkable genius by neglecting the principles of art, and has not sought to snatch a reputation by startling effects. The management of the lights and the admirable drawing of the figures attract attention to a work by which the visitor is still further interested in the story so well told and the historical plot so ably suggested.

Mr. G. A. Storey's "Old Soldier" (62) is a capital rendering of the passage in Sterne's "Sentimental Journey"; and, commencing the second room, leads us to "Catherine of Lorraine urging Jacques Clement to assassinate Henry III."—a powerful picture by Mr. P. A. Calderon, R.A., and one of the greatest works in the exhibition, so full of force and intensity, and yet, in all its evil story, so human, that there is a true fascination about it. A very charming little picture, and one full of suggestion in these days, when our homeless and destitute children claim immediate attention, is Mr. Faed's "Homeless" (78)—a healthy picture, too, that, instead of looking only at the darkest side, has in it a touch of hopeful cheer that should drive home the lesson it is intended to teach.

What a fine Highland drove has Mr. P. Graham given us, "On the Way to the Cattle Tryst" (76), and in what a stern, rugged country, yet full of a beauty of its own! Mr. J. Archer's picture of a Royalist family of boys and girls playing at soldiers (77) has about it something rather unnatural; but it is a remarkable picture nevertheless. "Hope and Fear" (82), by Mr. W. F. Frith, R.A., will be a great attraction to "the general," for it is in reality a pair of pictures, and while Hope asks Papa, on one side, Fear is comforted and soothed by Mamma, on the other. Is there anything in fast modern society to correspond with this sentiment, we wonder; or have both hope and fear, in such cases, vanished in favour of "Take it for granted"? Anyhow, there should be something to attract in Mr. Frith's work, and the old folk, at least, will like to look at it, as illustrating the time when they themselves were young. "The Rich Widow" (86), by Mr. D. W. Wynfield, represents a bereaved lady, "young, beautiful, and a great fortune," surrounded by aspirants, who, presumably, desire to share the latter as a result of their admiration of the former. The latest arrival is an old beau whose ability to compete with his younger rivals is at all events not doubted by himself. A very capital picture, by M. A. Dillens, representing a barber's shop in Zealand, and a quaint little comedy that is being played there, leads us to remark not only on the number but on the very high order of merit of the foreign pictures that have been admitted to the exhibition this year; and among them, of course, Rosa Bonheur's "Moutons Ecosais" (163), and "Un Amateur Romain" (154), by M. L. A. Tadmara, a marvellous Roman interior, where the architectural finish and wonderful perspective, as well as the figures, show the hand of a great master.

Mr. E. Crowe's "Jacobite" (96), where a seditious fugitive is discovered by the soldiers, hastily disguised as an old woman, and sitting at a spinning-wheel, is humorous, but suggestive of a tragic ending. The painting of the face of the foremost soldier, however, is wanting in finish. Mr. W. F. Yeames has also chosen a Jacobite subject (148), representing an alarm in a family where the fugitive is making his way up the great, wide chimney of the room, with provisions to last him in case the pursuers should quarter for the night. The "Scene in a Cairo Bazaar" (97), by Mr. J. F. Lewis, R.A., is a capital bit of Oriental light, colour, and nationality; but, perhaps, the most striking picture in this room is Mr. Orchardson's "Duke's Antechamber" (103), a realistic work that requires, and will well bear, study for its due appreciation, so full is it of character and expression. A very lovely exhibition of foliage and the effect of light is Mr. Redgrave's "From Autumn to Winter" (107), and, allegorical as the subject is, it cannot fail to be attractive. Mr. Poynter's "Prodigal's Return" (110) is an admirable work, which well illustrates the subject of the parable. The rescue of the sufferers from Lucknow by General Lord Clyde (111), by Jones, R.A., is a scene that recalls the history of that affecting episode of the terrible Indian mutiny, and is full of suggestion. We cannot pass by Mr. Faed's "Only Herself" (119), without paying a tribute to its simple, powerful pathos. The figure of the poor old wrinkled weather-beaten huckster, sitting at the foot of a bank thinking of years long past, and unconscious of being watched by the urchins in the field above her, is a picture that, by fully carrying out all that it is designed to tell, yields true delight to the observer.

The great Landseer—The Swannery invaded by Sea Eagles—is on this wall; and a wonderful, almost terrible, picture it is of an unequal struggle, beak and claw against wing and bill.

Mr. Calderon's medieval picture, where a swain rowing his lady in a boat, lets the vessel glide down the stream as he "signs his soul into his lady's face," is attractive; and Mr. J. Archer's rendering of the old story of the death of Burd Helen of Kirkcubbin is well painted and natural in conception.

Mr. Pettie's "Disgrace of Cardinal Wolsey" gives the figure of the Cardinal in a realistic way, but the courtiers in the group near him are a little stagey. There is power and freedom in the picture, however, and it will be attractive to visitors to the exhibition. A capital character-picture is Mr. Webster's "Politician" (147); and in quite another school of art, well conceived and rich in colour, is Mr. E. M. Ward's "Grinding Gibbons's First Introduction at Court" (144), a work full of expression, and admirably conveying the story told in Evelyn's Diary, from which it is taken.

Another picture on the subject of the prodigal son, by Mr. P. F. Poole, R.A., is a fine work, worthy of the artist's reputation; and Mr. Elmore's "Katherine and Petruchio" (164) is an interpretation of an often-repeated subject, which yet is freshly suggestive because of its force and expression.

We cannot say the same of "King Cophetua and the Beggar-Maid" (171), by Mr. D. Maclellan, R.A. It is distinguished by the richness and breadth of the artist, and also by his peculiar grouping and unvarying accessories; but it is as unsuggestive a picture for a large work as could well have come from the easel of a distinguished painter.

A charming little picture is Mr. E. Frère's "Glissade" (183), showing a number of boys sliding down a snow-hill, close to the school-house, and an elderly lady and gentleman going gingerly down some frozen steps—a subject in complete accordance with the artist's admirable knack of catching the freshness of young life. Sir G. Harvey, P.R.S.A., contributes a very wonderful picture, under the title "Mrs. Napier, of Shandon" (197), in which the extraordinary finish of the details and the manner in which the lady represented seems to speak out of the canvas will attract observant people, who will recognise a fine example of the "good old style," when artists finished their pictures, and dwelt studiously upon every touch that helped to make them perfect. "The Boat" (217), in which Mr. J. C. Hook, R.A., represents a real fisherman's family and an unmistakable water-baby, is admirable, as his works generally are. Mr. B. S. Marks has contributed a very suggestive little reality in "Before the Bench in the State School of Compulsory Education." We commend it to the study of politicians and professed philanthropists. Sir E. Landseer's "Piarmigan Hill" (224) is a fine rendering of that wild sportsman's scenery in which he delights. "Marina Rousing Pericles from a Trance" (240), by Mr. H. O'Neill, is admirable for light and colour, and will require looking at before its full beauty is appreciated.

A very pretty little picture, sure to be popular, is Mr. Wyburd's "Birthday Visit" (252), where a charming, honest-eyed young lady—evidently the wife's sister about whom there is so much fuss just now—is knocking at a door, laden with toys, and as eager to distribute her gifts as the little recipient will be to seize them. We must conclude with mentioning what we cannot but regard as THE picture of the exhibition, Mr. P. F.

Poole's "Lorenzo and Jessica at Belmont" (257). It would be difficult to express the exquisite sense of beauty which comes over one in gazing at this marvellous work. The soft magical glory of the moonlight seems to come out of the canvas and include you in the scene. Never has Shakespeare been so illustrated; and seldom has a picture hanging in the midst of 1140 other works of art been more successful in becoming, for a time, the one object on which we can gaze contentedly, to look until we are insensibly drawn into the subject itself, and seem as though the scene were around instead of only before us. We advise the visitor who cannot do more than we have done in a single visit to leave at once after he has received a last impression from Mr. Poole's great work.

THE LOUNGER.

THE Mayor of Cork is not appointed by the Crown, nor by the Lord Lieutenant, as the county and city justices are, but by the Aldermen and Common Council of the city; he cannot, therefore, be removed summarily by the Crown nor the Lord Lieutenant. Indeed, there is no power that can unmayor the Mayor summarily. If done at all, it must be done by Act of Parliament. Accordingly, on Wednesday, the Attorney-General for Ireland brought in a bill to remove him; and next Tuesday the Attorney-General, prior to the second reading of the bill, according to constitutional custom, is to produce evidence against the Mayor of Cork. At present there is no evidence, except an unauthenticated newspaper report. Meanwhile, a House of Commons messenger has gone down to Cork to deliver to the Mayor a copy of the bill. What evidence will be forthcoming is not known. It appears that there was only one reporter present at the supper. Will he appear to prove his report? Doubtful, I should say. Rumour says that he will not dare to do so; that, in fact, he has already gone out of the way. There were, of course, many people present at the supper who could prove the truthfulness of the report, but it is questionable whether any of them can be got to appear; and, unless a policeman were there—which is hardly likely—one does not see how any evidence can be got. Supposing no evidence be obtained, will the Government ask the House to pass the bill? I should hardly think they will. The Mayor's conduct was very bad. It seemed to me, when I heard the speech of the Mayor read by the Attorney-General, that there was in it not a direct exhortation, but certainly a hint, to shoot Prince Arthur. But surely this speech must be authenticated before the bill can be passed. However, if the Government shall advise the House to pass the bill, the House will, with or without evidence, pass it. The Conservatives almost to a man would pass a bill, not merely to expel this man from the mayoralty, but to transport him, and I think a majority of the Liberals would follow their leader. There is, though, a considerable minority which would oppose. This minority is composed not merely of Irish members. There are old-fashioned Liberals who think that the House ought never to sanction, under any circumstances, *ex post facto* bills of pains and penalties; and I confess that as I listened to the very able speech of Mr. Bouvier I felt strongly disposed to agree with him. If the law be not strong enough to remove the Mayor of Cork, make a general law, giving the Government general powers to remove Mayors upon sufficient grounds, as it has to remove all other magistrates.

Strange enough, Disraeli opposed the bill upon these high constitutional grounds. I say strange, because he must have known that his followers, almost to a man, were against him. But it seemed to me that the Conservative leader lost for a time his head, or he never would have insulted the accomplished Irish Attorney-General so wantonly as he did. His words were these—"Are we to pass this bill on the *ipse dixit* of an Attorney-General, an Irish Attorney-General?" The words do not look so very bad upon paper; but the scornful emphasis with which Disraeli pronounced them made them intolerably offensive. However, he was severely punished. Not a cheer encouraged him from his own side, all his followers were dumb. Whereas, when Gladstone eloquently and passionately defended Mr. Sullivan, there was not only prolonged enthusiastic cheers from the Liberals, but audible cheers from the Conservative ranks. When Disraeli was speaking one could see as well as hear that he had lost all his self-control. There was none of that cold, cynical expression on his countenance which we usually see there. On the contrary, it was positively distorted by passion. Poor man, he has had the gout latterly, and still has something of it. Perhaps this may account for his abnormal ill temper.

Mr. Whalley, it is known, does not in his heart like the Irish Church Bill. He would, if he dared, oppose it. But he pledged himself to his supporters at Peterborough to vote for it. Without such a pledge he would not have been returned; and he has voted for it. His supporters, however, should look after him, and remind him that they sent him to Parliament not merely to formally vote, but to assist in every possible way to carry the bill. At present it is impossible not to suspect that, whilst he formally votes for it, he is deliberately and with malice *prepens* compassing its destruction. Else why those inane, impossible amendments and long-winded, useless speeches, and his wranglings with Mr. Newdegate? Every minute is now precious. On Tuesday Mr. Whalley wasted at least four hours. But for him, the thirty-ninth or Maynooth clause would certainly have been carried that morning. It would be well if some of his constituents would ally his skipping spirit with a few words of caution. It is work, silent work, that we want from Liberals now. No speech that Mr. Whalley can make now will amend this bill; but long speeches may do much to defeat it.

THE LITERARY LOUNGER.

In the *Cornhill* for this month—a capital and varied number—there is an article entitled "A Cynic's Apology." We have read the like before in the *Saturday Review* and the *Pall Mall Gazette*. It amounts to this: there are a great many prigs, sentimentalists, quacks, and fools. The cynic is the natural enemy of all these, and he is, therefore, not to be condemned; at all events he is useful. To this it is only needful to reply that snakes, vermin, and wild beasts of various kinds have their uses; but we hold ourselves at liberty to hate and exterminate them all the same. Though the cynic is the opposite of the prig, the prig may fairly enough say, "My very reason of being is the existence of the cynical and semi-cynical people, who do so much to encourage the apathy of the world." In a word, though we must admit that cynics may do good, just as bigger vermin devour smaller, a cynic in himself is odious. The natural enemy of priggishness and sentimentalism is the humorous indignation of sincere people. But the mere fact that the cynic exists makes it difficult for the angry humourist, who hates both cynics and prigs, to do his duty, because he is afraid of being supposed to side with the cynics. Fielding, in "Joseph Andrews," raised a laugh against the priggishness and false sentiment of Richardson; but Fielding was not a cynic. As to reviewers, the essayist in the *Cornhill* wants to make out that there is too little rather than too much of what is called harsh or slashing reviewing. Now, it is too true that there is a great mass of feeble, incompetent reviewing which for the most part deals in slobbering praise. But, the point is that no sensible human being cares a straw for it. On the other hand, the "slashing" reviewing is almost entirely confined to two or three organs which have great power and which do, deny it who may, make a *métier* of "slashing," and are, perhaps, quite as often wrong as right. They seem as if they felt it their special business to take the severe side, and they do, undoubtedly, cause much suffering and do some harm. People forget, in making these comparisons, how much power the leading organs exercise. It is only authors whose writings are of no consequence who care for what a dozen journals that might be named say of their books; but every man with a grain of sense cares what certain other journals will say, because he knows that publishers and the public will heed it, whether it is right or

Literature.

The Malay Archipelago: the Land of the Orang-utan and the Bird of Paradise. A Narrative of Travel, with Studies of Man and Nature. By ALFRED RUSSELL WALLACE, Author of "Travels on the Amazon and River Negro," &c. 2 vols. London: Macmillan and Co.

Perhaps to most readers the Malay Archipelago is about the most unknown part of the world, excepting, of course, such a dubious spot as the land of Prester John, or the Mountains of the Moon, which happen to lie somewhere in the very heart of Africa. Some three centuries since our ancient mariners used to write about these islands, and their histories are indissolubly mixed up with those of England, Holland, and Portugal. Captain Keppel and Sir James Brooke, with the Dido and the Royalist, had something to say about Borneo—and in both ways they gave a "good account"—five-and-twenty years ago; but their chief efforts were against piracy, and the book left only the promise of that government which has since been so well carried out. Things are changed now, and Mr. Wallace has much of interest to say, not about Borneo only, but of the whole archipelago. But then Mr. Wallace did not spend his six years amongst these islands either as a warrior or a statesman. He did not want treaties nor heads. He was content with orang-utans and birds of paradise. He was fond of travelling, and of studying man and nature. In brief, Mr. Wallace is a born naturalist. Somewhere he says he fears that many of his pages will not prove attractive to the "general reader," and so, we can assure him, they will not; for the interminable accounts of butterflies, beetles, birds of paradise, &c., can only have interest for scientific enthusiasts. But, on the other hand, there is infinite life and animation when the orang and the serpent are on the scene; whilst the description of human life cannot fail to be eagerly read.

The subject is so vast and varied, although there is a family likeness throughout, that it would not be fair to give merely a broad idea of the book, and yet it is impossible to describe it minutely. We will, therefore, follow lightly Mr. Wallace's route, quite irrespective of various dates between 1856 and 1862 (for he touched twice at many places), and simply note down specimens of the interest which we found to be striking. The physical geography of the archipelago first claims attention. Here Mr. Wallace proves that the islands must be divided into two kinds—those which are akin to the Asiatic continent, and those which have affinity with New Guinea, or Australia. The difference of the country, of the inhabitants, the birds, and the beasts all goes to prove this. The islands have been separated from the mainland by earthquakes, or have been thrown up by volcanoes. How far back these events have occurred is more than can be safely asserted. But it seems that Nature was only liberal, not prodigal, with her earthquakes, in forming the archipelago; for there is a constant supply going on, and it will probably go on until the crack of doom. So common, indeed, are they, that in many places they "form the chronological epochs of the native inhabitants, by the aid of which the ages of their children are remembered and the dates of many important events are determined." Thus, we can imagine an intelligent Dyak, with British aspirations, celebrating his twenty-first shock when he comes of age. Mr. Wallace's rambles may be said to commence at Singapore, which, however, is too well known for much comment; although it is pleasant (for the English residents and traders) to know that the free and independent tiger eats on an average a Chinaman every day. Passing on to Malacca, on the mainland, we find the "forest leech" less fastidious than the tiger about his Chinaman. They are quite contented with a good long suck at an Englishman. Mr. Wallace says that he and his little band often found a dozen calmly drinking away on their legs at the same time; and once he found a fine fellow tripping on his neck, unpleasantly near the jugular vein. Further on, the "doctrine of compensation in nature" is beautifully shown. The travellers could find no water where they expected it; but the faithful pitcher-plant was at hand, with innumerable half-pints, unpleasantly full of insects, certainly, but good enough to answer the purpose. Borneo, or, at least, the province of Sarawak, is well known. The new points are that in two or three months, and on a space of one square mile, Mr. Wallace collected 2000 different kinds of insects, and amongst the curiosities is a "tree-frog" which flies. But the orang-utan was the chief object. It is impossible to sum up the stories of encounters with these powerful animals, but it is fair to say that they never began the attack. No two males are ever seen together. They travel male and female, and sometimes have a small family with them. These animals will measure 13 ft. from hand to hand, and they can tear crocodiles and pythons to pieces with perfect ease. The description of the Darian fruit is enchanting—"A rich, butter-like custard flavoured with almonds, intermingled with wafts of flavour that call to mind cream-cheese, onion-sauce, brown sherry, and other incongruities." Thanks to Rajah Brooke, his part of the country is rapidly becoming civilised; but still an "orang kaya," or "great man," paid a visit in full dress—a spangled velvet jacket but no trousers! Taking Java next, there are evidences, in ruins, of a very high civilisation. "Such admirable brickwork I have never seen before or since," and the "Thousand Temples" long since excited the admiration of Captain Baker, who surveyed them. Here might be a new field for Mr. Layard's ambition, when he becomes tired of being worried about small matters. In Sumatra (by way of change) the butterfly may be noticed. The male selects two wives, the happy couple-and-a-half differing totally from each other in species and appearance. This is the result when the families come: "Each mother is capable not only of producing male offspring like the father and female like herself, but also other females like her fellow-wife, and altogether differing from herself." The island of Lombok has some native characteristics. Beetles are eaten in many ways; the natives bore gun-barrels as true as any of Mr. Westley Richards, and by means that would make that gentleman stare; and they are remarkable for "running amok" when they have done anything wrong, by which they die by a gentle kind of suicide. Here must be observed, in the order of our notes, that wherever coffee is grown coffee is never fit to be drunk! and that at Macassar (Celebes) there is not the faintest mention of that country producing oil. So much for Rowland! Here, too, must be dispelled the vulgar error that the tropical East Indies produce gorgeous flowers. No, there is vegetation of astonishing size and abundance, but not sufficient colour amongst it to arrest the eye; however, in Celebes there are, exceptionally, hedges composed wholly of rose-trees, which are continually in blossom.

Throughout the most interesting part of the work, it is pleasing to notice the great influence of the Dutch, with whom the English have ever had warm sympathy, despite the occasional fighting. The Portuguese, also, have left their mark unmistakably. Throughout the language is tinged with Portuguese. At Amboyna and other places Mr. Wallace defends the spice monopoly, and shows how it benefits and civilises the natives; and he bids us "look at home." The missionaries, of course, have some comment: they have done much good, but might do much more, especially by inducing fathers to work more and mothers to work less, whereby the enormous mortality through children dying for want of attention might be prevented. By-the-way, the natives who have been converted by the missionaries are remarkable for getting drunk. The others are remarkable for keeping sober.

Passing, in a Dutch steamer, on board which there is scarcely a minute's relaxation from eating and drinking, we come to New Guinea and the various islands in alliance with it. Here appears to have been the principal field for birds of paradise, of which Mr. Wallace made a goodly collection of various kinds, some being quite new. An attempt to keep some alive broke down; but it is to be done. We do not intend to follow these wanderings, having shown enough of the book as it is; but we notice that in Aru the natives are fond of cock-fighting, with steel spurs. These volumes will delight the scientific world especially, but much general matter

will be found for ordinary readers. Illustrations and maps are given profusely. Also an index!

Primeval Man: an Examination of some Recent Speculations By the DUKE OF ARGYLL. London: Strahan and Co.

This book is a reprint of a series of papers contributed to the pages of *Good Words*, the essays having been provoked by a paper read by Sir John Lubbock before the British Association for the Advancement of Science, in 1867. The point under discussion is the early condition of mankind—that is, was man originally a highly-developed and civilised being, or has he gradually emerged from a condition of pure savagery, or something even lower still? Sir John Lubbock favours the latter, the Duke of Argyll maintains the former, hypothesis; and very ably he does maintain it, though we doubt whether anyone, his Grace not excepted, will feel that he has settled the matter. For obvious reasons, we cannot enter fully into the discussion; but, as the Duke of Argyll has the advantage of maintaining a generally accepted conclusion, it may be as well, perhaps, to occupy what space we have at command in indicating some, at least, of the objections he has to meet. The question, then, is confessedly difficult as well as large; for it is not easy, in the first place, to obtain sufficient data concerning the human race as a whole from which to draw sound inferences as to its original condition; but what proofs have been discovered by archaeological research seem to point to barbarism, and not to civilisation, as the state of man in remote ages. Though there are few or no indications of the existence of a golden age of refinement and purity, there are considerable evidences of a rude state of society—of a flint period gradually developing into a bronze age, and thence into one of iron, brass, and steel, with all the attendant appliances and refinements of modern life. What the early moral condition of man may have been it is impossible to tell; but that his social state, as shown by his inventions and mastery over the elements of nature, was low, appears capable of demonstration. In the second place, it is difficult to conceive how, if men were at first highly civilised, and gifted with a high mental and moral development, they could have sunk into barbarism; and still more difficult is it to understand how, having so sunk, they could ever, by their own efforts, have again emerged from the savage state. The usual law of progress is from good to better, or from bad to worse; but, taking the Duke of Argyll's view of the question, the course must have been for a time from good to evil, from elevation to degradation; and then, at some undefined time and from some undefined cause, an inverse process set in from evil to good, from debasement to exaltation. Now, what caused and what checked the first course? What influence formed the power that impelled men downward, and what other influence turned the tide and gave an upward impulse to humanity? Of course, it is easy to conceive of beings partially good and partially wise becoming less good and less wise, as it is easy to conceive the contrary—that they might become more good and more wise. The difficulty is to explain how beings perfectly good and perfectly wise—for that is implied in the Duke of Argyll's proposition, though he does not so express it—ever became anything else; or how, having fallen from their high intellectual and moral estate, and sunk into mental and moral darkness, they ever managed to extricate themselves from the slough and retrace their steps towards the firm ground of perfect virtue and wisdom. To mere unaided reason it appears more natural that beings gifted with even a very slight glimmering of intelligence and a feeble sense of moral excellence should gradually, generation after generation, emerge from barbarism into civilisation, from darkness into light, from rudeness into refinement, than that they should first fall from their high altitude and then retrace their steps to at least a certain degree of mental and moral, and of course social and physical, excellence. How to account for the initiation of this seesaw process of declension and rise is the problem. And he remembered that it is mental as well as moral man with which the problem is concerned, so that both intellectual and moral phenomena have to be accounted for. The simple, religious man who believes his Bible will have no difficulty in solving the question; he will tell you that Divine influences and Divine revelation arrested the downward course and inaugurated the upward tendency. But, unfortunately, the author of the book before us is deprived of that resource; he cannot adduce the Bible as evidence in a strictly scientific inquiry, because his evidence is not admitted by his opponents; and he is forced to rely upon purely natural, not upon revealed, evidence.

And this reference to Divine revelation brings up another point upon which the Duke gives forth a tolerably distinct sound, though we cannot help thinking that he somewhat falters in his note, and is consequently a little inconsistent, as a few sentences will suffice to show. We refer to the unfettered and unlimited right of man to inquire into all and every subject that comes under his observation—the original condition of mankind included. On this point the Duke says—"It may be true, and I believe it to be true, that the desire of knowledge is capable of excess." And again—"It is not on one subject, but on all, that we speedily come to questions that cannot be answered." Now, in the first place, before it can be said with propriety that the "desire of knowledge is capable of excess," it must first be determined whether the knowledge be lawful; and who is to settle that point? Clearly no mere human being has a right to dictate an answer for anyone except himself. Then as to the possibility of settling questions, how can that be done till everyone has tried, and has failed? a point that cannot be reached till the last human being has lived, has tried, has failed, and has died. Had his Grace written "have not been" for "cannot be" in the second sentence quoted above, he would have been more correct, philosophically as well as historically. We know how much has been done in the past to solve questions long declared insoluble, to acquire knowledge long deemed unattainable, and to accomplish feats all but universally pronounced impossible; and, knowing these things, who shall dare to set limits to the powers of the human mind, or to circumscribe its action, in the present or in the future? Surely, not the Duke of Argyll, who, we think, is more consistent with himself as well as with true philosophy, and, moreover, is on sounder ground, when he says—"We should never be jealous of research, but always jealous of presumption; on all subjects Reason should be warned to keep within the limits of her powers, but from none should Reason be warned away." He might have added, upon no subject should dictation intrude, for presumption is much more likely to be exhibited, and has been far more often shown, in endeavouring to limit the range of human inquiry than in carrying inquiry to excess. And his Grace is thoroughly in the right when he writes—"In opposition to all attempts—come from what quarter they may—to limit arbitrarily the boundaries of knowledge, let us maintain the principle that we never can certainly know what is 'inaccessible to reason' until the way of access has been tried. In the highest interests of truth, we must resist any and every interdict against research. The strong presumption is that every philosophy which assumes to issue such an interdict must have reason to fear inquiry." Thanks, my Lord Duke, for that declaration, for there spoke both sound philosophy and genuine Christian faith, which believe in truth and fear not the assaults of error. In conclusion, let us say that this book will well repay the candid and thoughtful mind for a perusal; minds that are biased and not thoughtful are little likely either to appreciate it, or profit by it. Still, all men, whether candid and thoughtful or not, have the right to read and to inquire if they think fit—we, at least, forbid them not; and the Duke of Argyll's book on "Primeval Man" may help to cure both lack of thought and lack of candour. Therefore it is to be commended, whether or not it be strong enough to convince.

AN IMPORTANT REDUCTION, from the commencement of next month, is to be made in the Atlantic Telegraph tariff. The effect of the alteration will be especially favourable for newspaper messages, which will be conveyed at half rates. The new tariff will practically reduce the cost of press messages from 6s. 9d. to 2s. per word.

wrong; and very often a slashing review means so much bread out of my mouth. I will mention a recent case. There was a really good novel, which came twice under my own hands for notice. It was a capital first book, and showed as plainly as possible that its author was just capable of seeing for herself, and curing of herself, her own faults. It was my lot to praise it; but I did not go beyond hinting at the faults, because I saw the lady was of that class of persons who find out their faults for themselves (the only class worth writing for). In two powerful organs this novel was most contemptuously reviewed. Neither of them discovered that the book was the work of a lady (though the feminine touch was upon every chapter); and neither of them hit a single one of the real blots in the work; but both affirmed that the writer knew nothing of good society. Now, I repeat that the novel was a good one—for a first book, almost a wonder of success; and I add, of my own personal knowledge (though I was ignorant of the fact at the time I reviewed the work), that the author was an accomplished lady, who moved and had always moved in the very best, I might almost say the highest, circles. This is a fact, and it is typical. It is needless attempting to conceal the truth that there is a number of men engaged in criticism who "go in for slating," and who make a great many gross, concealed, and cruel blunders. As for the use of "slating" in putting down quacks, I could name two literary quacks to whom reiterated slating has done no jot of harm, though the slating organs have been down upon them. Why have they not hurt these quacks? Because they have a "slating" character, and "when they abuse" the fact is put down to bad feeling or want of some sort of appreciative power. In truth, their policy, supposing it to be sincerely exerted in behalf of the interests of literature, is an honest failure.

Macmillan has some very interesting papers. The author of "John Halifax" commences her new story of "A Brave Lady;" and there are other matters which must be deferred for want of room.

Victor Hugo's new story, "By Order of the King," all the world knows, has found its way into the *Gentleman's Magazine*, though it was to have appeared in *Once a Week*.

Mr. Charles Kingsley writes in *Good Words* a remarkable paper on "Thrift," addressed to women. Of this more information is due to the reader; but the best thing he can do is to get the number and read it for himself.

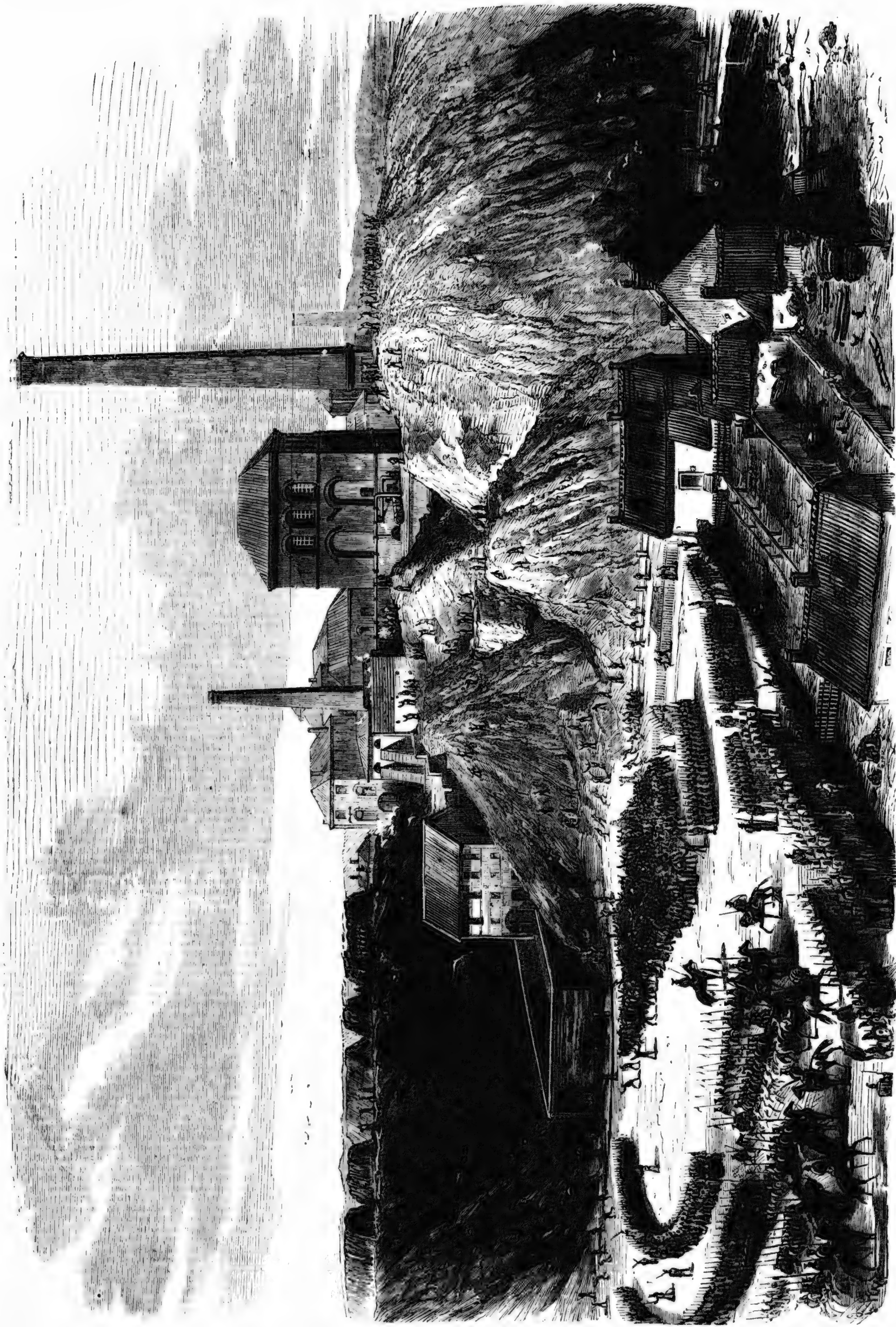
THE THEATRICAL LOUNGER.

There is little to admire in Mr. Boucicault's version of Victorien Sardou's drama, "Seraphine." The piece is poorly constructed as he presents it; the story is obscure in many parts, and where it is not obscure it is either improbable or impossible. The dialogue is so extremely feeble that it is difficult to suppose Mr. Boucicault had any hand in it. There is no trace whatever of that sharp caustic interchange of conversation that characterises even the weakest of Mr. Boucicault's dramas. "Seraphine" has all the air of a very clumsy translation, and the clumsiness of the translation is not redeemed by any trace of the excellent stage management for which Mr. Boucicault is so famous. When there are more than three people on the stage at a time, the "business" of the scene is allowed to work itself out. Now, in a piece for which Mr. Boucicault is responsible this should not be. With all his showman faults, Mr. Boucicault is a very skilful playwright, and a very excellent stage manager; and, if a play of his is deficient in dialogue and stage management, we look naturally to some outside cause for an explanation of the phenomenon. Perhaps, on this occasion, we may conclude that we find it in a curious handbill that was circulated in the QUEEN'S THEATRE on the first night of the drama, and in that handbill Mr. Boucicault disclaims all connection with the piece, on the ground that certain alterations have been made without his sanction. This seems plausible enough at first sight; but I happen to know that the facts of the case were as follow:—Mr. Boucicault did not come to the rehearsal of his production, but delegated its superintendence to his secretary. Now, in the course of the rehearsals of every new piece, it is found necessary to make certain alterations: this speech has to be cut down, that speech has to be lengthened, and so on; and, of course, these alterations are always made by the author. But, as on this occasion the author of the play was not present at rehearsal at all, the duty of making these indispensable alterations devolved on the manager or stage manager of the theatre; and, of course, in Mr. Boucicault's absence, they exercised their prerogative whenever they thought it necessary to do so. How far their alterations have conduced to the success (such as it is) of the drama I am not in a position to say; but it is difficult to imagine that any dialogue inserted by the management could materially affect the success of so clumsily-written a piece. "Seraphine" has all the advantages that good scenery and careful acting can give it. Miss Herbert, as an accidental bigamist, who, in expiation of her (so-called) crime, devotes her illegitimate daughter to a convent; Miss Patti Josephs, as the daughter so condemned; Mr. Emery, as a canting humbler of the "Aminadab Slick" school; Mr. Hermann Vezin, as the second husband of the accidental bigamist; and Mr. Wyndham, as her son-in-law, who lives in a state of perpetual feud with his wife, owing to the baneful influence of his mother-in-law—represented with particular excellence those types of character with which constant players are only too familiar. Miss Hodgson looked much too childish as Victor de Faverolles; but that was not her fault. She played the part very charmingly; but it was an abstract creation, having no relation whatever to the audacious young lover of Sardou's play.

Mr. Barry Sullivan has opened the HOLBORN for pieces belonging only to the "higher order of English drama." It is not easy to say what plays belong to this distinguished class; but if Mr. Barry Sullivan will exercise a sound discretion in the selection of his pieces, it is possible that he may do very well with his venture; but he must bear in mind that the fact of a piece being in five acts or in blank verse does not of itself suffice to place it in that category. There is a fascination about five acts, a glamour about blank verse, that seem to present an irresistible temptation to half-educated managers; and it will be for Mr. Sullivan to show that he has a soul above these conventional recommendations. The performance of "Money," with which the theatre opened, does not do him or his company much credit.—The piece is played with all the detestable old conventionalities, and Mr. Barry Sullivan himself is as conventional an actor as ever trod a stage.

INVALID BISHOPS.—The Archbishop of Canterbury stated on Monday night in the House of Lords that a bill would shortly be introduced which, if adopted, would enable prelates disabled by age and infirmity to retire on pensions calculated on the basis of their incomes. The announcement was made apropos to a discussion on the present condition of the south-western diocese, in five of which the bishops are incapacitated from performing their duties. A similar step was taken thirteen years ago, when Lord Palmerston passed through Parliament a bill pensioning Bishop Blomfield of London on £8000 a year, and Bishop Malby of Durham at £4500. A few months afterwards Bishop Hinds of Norwich also resigned his see. The Bishop of Exeter, to whom the promised bill would apply, and who entered his 92nd year the other day, was one of the strongest opponents of the former measure, contending that no prelate had a right to lay down those duties which had been entrusted to him by Divine authority.

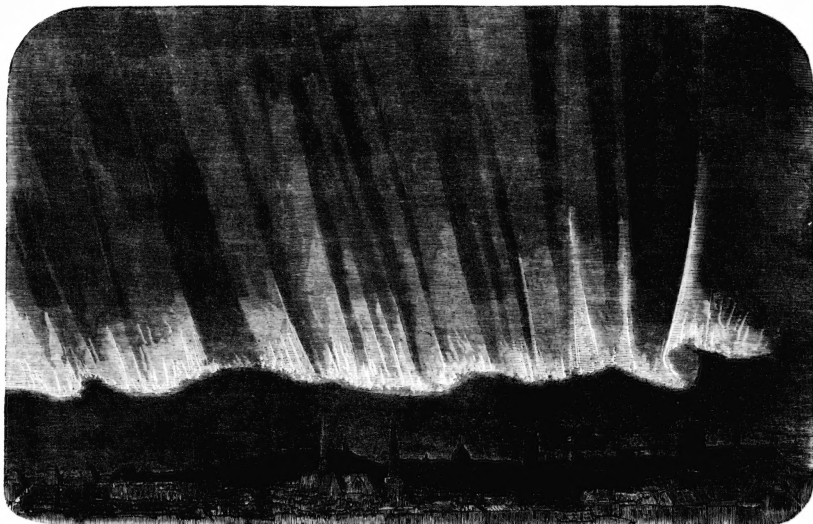
THE IRISH CHURCH COMMISSIONERS.—Mr. Gladstone announced on Tuesday in the House of Commons the names of the gentlemen whom he will ask Parliament to appoint to the important office of Commissioners for Church Temporalities in Ireland, under the Irish Church Bill. They are Lord Monck; Mr. Justice Lawson, of the Court of Common Pleas, Ireland; and Mr. G. A. Hamilton, of the Treasury. Each of these names represents, besides eminent ability, some special aptitudes for the onerous duties which the Commissioners will be called to discharge. Lord Monck has but lately returned from the successful administration of the government of one of the most important of British colonies, in which the rule of ecclesiastical equality before the law has been applied with signal advantage. Mr. Justice Lawson's legal knowledge will be of obvious utility in dealing with the numerous practical questions which must come before the Commission, and Mr. Hamilton's experience is the chief financial department of the State will prove invaluable. Mr. Justice Lawson will probably retain his position in the Court of Common Pleas, special arrangements being made, according to precedent, for the due performance of his duties; but Mr. Hamilton will leave the Treasury, where he has earned a very high reputation for business capacity.



THE LATE DISTURBANCES IN BELGIUM: ARRIVAL OF TROOPS AT THE COLLIERIES AT EORNAGE.



THE LATE DISTURBANCE IN BELGIUM: ARRIVAL OF TROOPS AT THE COLLIERIES AT BORISAGE.



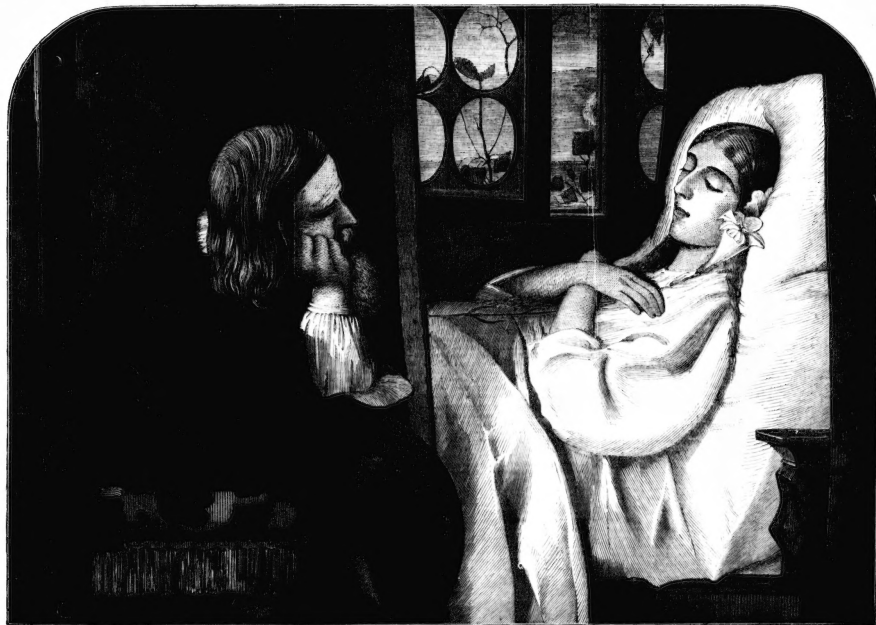
AURORA BOREALIS, SEEN FROM THE OBSERVATORY OF THE COLLEGE DE FRANCE, PARIS.

AURORA BOREALIS, AS SEEN IN FRANCE.

Our engraving represents a display of aurora borealis—of which there has recently been some notice in the general newspapers—as it was witnessed from the observatory of the College de France, which is situated in the Rue St. Jacques, at the back of the Hotel de Clugny, in Paris. It need hardly be remarked that the sight of this northern phenomenon in the French capital was a very attractive, as it was certainly an unusual, spectacle. The

horizon was bounded in every direction by heavy clouds, above which the aurora shone like a curtain of greenish hued light, not altogether unlike that produced by the combustion of zinc in a metal foundry. This curtain was agitated by a series of undulations like waves, succeeding each other at regular intervals of two or three seconds; and all kinds of speculation were rife as to the causes of these remarkable phenomena, and what they might portend. The aurora at the northern latitudes is, of course,

most brilliant, and is generally preceded by a horizontal cloud rising to about 40 deg. of altitude and extending along an arc of from 5 deg. to above 100 deg. This cloud is sometimes whitish and bright; at others, black and dense, with its upper edge luminous and of irregular outline. After shooting a number of streamers, the darker part of the cloud generally becomes very luminous, the streamers continuing to shoot from the upper edge, at greater or less distances from each



"TINTORETTO AND HIS DAUGHTER.—(AFTER THE PICTURE BY FOURRIER.)

other. Their light is very dazzling, and the appearance has been compared to that of a shining liquid forced violently from a syringe. The light is strongest and the streamers narrowest near the main body of the phenomenon.

Columns of light issue upward from openings in the main cloud with a slow and uniform motion, becoming broader as they proceed, their dimensions and time of duration being various, while they sometimes assume different hues, so that a complete rainbow of light has been observed at one time. When several columns, emerging from different points, meet at the zenith, a small and dense meteor is formed, which appears to burn with greater intensity than either column by itself. This meteor is green, blue, or purple; and afterwards proceeds towards the south, in the form of a small and clear cloud. When the columns cease, the first-mentioned horizontal meteor has little more than the appearance of morning twilight, and gradually disappears. The phenomenon lasts sometimes all night, and has been seen many nights in succession; while occasionally the display consists in nothing more than a gradual increase of light in the horizontal meteor, and the whole takes place in a few minutes. These, however, are the auroras of northern latitudes, where "the joyous dancers," that cheer the gloom of the Scandinavians in their Arctic winter, are most splendid. Those that have been seen in our own zone, although some of them have presented extraordinary appearances, are less brilliant and changing, as well as less durable. The strange part of the history of the aurora borealis is that, even in Sweden, the phenomenon is said to have been very rare before the year 1716, although 316 observations were made between 1706 and 1732.

The observers of the last aurora borealis describe the arc as being furrowed by the passage of threadlike stars, small but brilliant, which remained only for one or two seconds, or during one of the undulations or pulsations of the aurora. The sky was clear; the stars in the heavens seemed to shine with unusual brilliancy, as though their fires were enhanced by the strange light. A little before eleven o'clock at night dense clouds obscured the appearance from the French College, but at some other places it was observed until three o'clock in the morning, having lasted some five hours.

THE RIOTS AT BORINAGE.

WE this week publish another engraving illustrative of the recent deplorable outbreaks among the Belgian miners. This engraving represents the arrival of troops at the collieries of the Upper and Lower Flennu at Borinage, previous to the attack on the rioters, who took refuge on the heights on which some of the works stand, whence they were subsequently dispersed. What adds to the gravity of these disturbances is the fact, said to have been proved by evidence taken during the magisterial inquiry, that they originated from revolutionary rather than economical motives.

Strikes are beginning to be prevalent in Holland as well as Belgium. One is reported at Amsterdam. The ship carpenters declined to continue work unless the masters would increase their wages from 1'80 fl. to 2 fl. a day, the working hours to be henceforth from six in the morning till six in the evening. The masters, however, refused these proposals, and the workmen have left the yards. No disorders have taken place. Eight hundred men are now out of employment. The turf-cutters at Beets (Friesland) have also struck for higher wages. Here serious disorders have taken place, and some lives have been lost. The Dutch workmen want to expel the Belgians, who work for lower wages.

TINTORETTO AND HIS DAUGHTER.

IN this representation of a well-known incident in the life of a painter who, according to Mr. Ruskin in one of his books, is the greatest colourist that ever lived, the figure of Tintoretto in M. Fourrier's picture will be chiefly remarked. In his tunic of black velvet and with his long grey hair streaming over his shoulders, he looks so handsome that for a moment we forget the terrible grief that is oppressing him. His beloved daughter is dead, and Tintoretto is gazing earnestly and inquiringly into her blanched face, as if to catch the expression of the countenance which delighted him so much when Marietta was still alive. It appears to us that there is not enough beauty in the face of the dead girl. She looks too dead; whereas the artist might have painted her

Before decay's effacing fingers
Have swept the lines where beauty lingers.

As it is, the "mild angelic air, the rapture of repose," which are said by the poet to mark the first moments after death, are wanting, and the picture, with all its merit and its beauty, is only half as beautiful as it might have been.

ROYAL ACADEMY EXHIBITION.—The extraordinary number of pictures excluded from the exhibition this year, a considerable proportion having been actually accepted and only finally omitted on the ground of want of space, has induced a committee of gentlemen and artists to form a select supplementary exhibition. A noble and spacious suite of rooms has already been secured in Bond-street, within two minutes' walk of the Academy. Mr. Moy Thomas has consented to act as secretary.

PRESENTATION TO CAPTAIN SHAW.—The foremen of the London Fire Brigade have, at the instigation and with the valuable co-operation of Mr. D. B. James, the photographer of Cannon-street, recently presented Captain Shaw with a musical album, fittingly embellished with the portraits of all the officers of the brigade. In accepting the testimonial of personal regard and esprit de corps, Captain Shaw mentioned that he had long desired to possess such a collection, but that the difficulty of obtaining so many good likenesses had seemed to him insurmountable.

CENTRAL CHAMBER OF AGRICULTURE.—At a meeting of the Central Chamber of Agriculture on Tuesday Mr. C. S. Read, M.P., the chairman, conveyed the thanks of the chamber to Mr. W. E. Forster, for the cordial spirit in which the Government had met the representatives of the agricultural interest in the matter of the Contagious Diseases (Animals) Bill. The subjects of discussion included the adulteration of seeds, the possibility of obtaining a substitute for the malt duty by taxing beer, the inequalities of local taxation, and the merits of the Property Valuation Bill.

FIRES AT ALBURY PARK.—Late on Friday night week a fire broke out at Albury Park, the Surrey residence of the Duke of Northumberland, which for many months past has been undergoing extensive repairs. The house is furnished with electric bells, and one of these, acted upon by the fire, first gave warning of the danger to the housekeeper, who speedily aroused the other domestics. It was then found that the roof of the south front of the house was on fire, and that the flames were rapidly spreading. Assistance was promptly rendered by persons in the neighbourhood, and a good supply of water being obtained from a reservoir near the house, a hose was directed upon the roof, and the best exertions were made to subdue the fire. A messenger was dispatched to Guildford for the volunteer fire brigade, and they, accompanied by Mr. Macdonald, their superintendent, speedily mustered and came with a powerful engine. On reaching Albury, however, they found that the fire had been got under by the active exertions of those on the spot, although not before a great portion of the roof had been destroyed, and several rooms, recently rebuilt and finished at great cost, had been much damaged by fire and water. The Duke, who was staying at Northumberland House, was apprised by telegraph of the occurrence, and, accompanied by the Duchess and Lord Percy, arrived at Albury at four o'clock last Saturday morning, by special train; but the mansion was then well protected, and all danger of a further outbreak or extension of the fire appeared at an end. Another fire, however, occurred at Albury Park last Saturday night. It appears that the house watchman was going his rounds about twelve o'clock, when he heard a peculiar crackling noise, and, on searching for its cause, discovered that a bed-room filled with costly furniture was on fire. He immediately gave an alarm, and all the available assistance on the estate was promptly rendered. The Duke and his son, Lord Percy, took an energetic share in endeavouring to save the house from destruction. The Guildford Fire Brigade, which had left early in the morning, under the supposition that all danger was over, was again summoned. Although greatly fatigued from their exertions of the previous night, the firemen, with Mr. Macdonald, were on their way to Albury with an engine in less than twenty minutes. On reaching the spot, they found the fire nearly subdued by those on the spot. They, however, made use of their engine to pump a supply of water into a reservoir, and also set to work to remove furniture from different parts of the house. Fortunately, the fire raged only a short time, the building being for the most part fireproof. A bed and a chest of drawers were consumed, and the apartment was charred and blackened by the action of the smoke. The second fire occurred in a different part of the building from that which was the former scene of the outbreak, with which it was in no way connected. This circumstance, coupled with the fact of a recent fire at Northumberland House and another at Alnwick Castle, has now induced a pretty general belief that all these fires must have been the work of an incendiary.

OPERA AND CONCERTS.

LONDON is again—or was to have been—in the enjoyment of two opera-houses, the "New Italian Opera" having been inaugurated at the Lyceum Theatre, on Monday evening, by the performance of Donizetti's "L'Elisir d'Amore." Miss Rose Hersee played Adina to Signor Gardoni's Nemorino, Signor Gassier's Belcore, and Signor Menici's Dulcamara. As the company at the Lyceum could scarcely be said to have got into working order, and, as it happens, as yet on a first (only) night, it would be premature to pronounce an opinion on its merits; but the performances, on the whole, seemed to give satisfaction to the audience. The prospectus of the New Italian Opera announces that several popular operas, not requiring a large stage and elaborate *mise en scene*, will be produced in the course of the season, together with some comparatively less familiar musical dramatic works. These will be represented by some favourite artistes and others worthy of being heard. Amongst the former may be mentioned Madame Trebelli-Bettini, Miss Rose Hersee, Mdle. Volpini, Mdle. Krauss (from Paris), Signor Verger, Signor Gardoni, Signor Bettini, and Signor Gassier. An evil influence, however, seems to attend upon the new venture, for, although it was intended to give a performance every evening, the theatre was closed on Tuesday night in consequence of the indisposition of Signor Gassier, who was to have played Figaro in Rossini's "Barbiere;" and on Wednesday another disappointment was experienced by a large crowd which had assembled at the doors with a view of hearing "Rigoletto;" for at the last moment a notice was issued stating that there would be no performance, in consequence of the sudden illness of Mdle. Volpini. Are these repeated illnesses and consequent interruptions omens of the fate of the new Italian Opera? It is to be hoped not, for competition in opera, as in other matters, is of advantage to the public.

The most important event that has yet marked the career of the Royal Italian Opera, Covent-garden, this season, was the re-appearance, on Tuesday night, of Miss Christine Nilsson in the part of Lucia. Madame Patti will not appear until Tuesday next, that lady having recently undergone a trifling surgical operation, in Paris, and some days' rest being prescribed in order to avert all fear of the advent of erysipelas.

The Rossini Concert at the Crystal Palace, last Saturday, was a great success, and would have been a still greater had Sir Michael Costa had the good taste to have made up the programme exclusively of Rossini's music, and abstained from introducing his own march from "Naaman" in a prominent place. It is to be hoped that a similar fault will never again be committed on a like occasion.

It is announced that a series of grand morning and evening promenade concerts will be given at the Royal Amphitheatre, Holborn, commencing on Saturday evening, May 15. Among the artists engaged are Mdle. Liebhart, Madame Emmeline Cole, and Mr. Vernon Rigby. The St. Cecilia Choral Society and an orchestra of sixty performers will take part in these concerts. The conductor is Mr. C. J. Hargitt.

Mrs. Stirling will repeat her reading of Shakespeare's play of "A Midsummer Night's Dream" on Wednesday morning next, May 12, in St. James's Hall. The whole of Mendelssohn's incidental music, for full orchestra, soli, and chorus, will be performed, under the direction of Mr. F. Kingsbury. The reading will commence at three and terminate at five o'clock.

THE LITERARY FUND.—The Literary Fund dinner took place, on Wednesday evening, under the presidency of Lord Stanley, who, in the course of his speech, gave an assurance from his own personal knowledge that the assistance of the fund was given to none but those fairly entitled to it. Lord Stanley also suggested that persons who had once been relieved from the fund and who now found themselves in a condition of prosperity should show their gratitude by an occasional subscription. Mr. Beveridge Johnson and Mr. Trollope spoke; and the speech of the former gentleman took the tone of a valedictory address.

COSTLY PASSENGERS.—In addition to the amount charged for the conveyance of Prince Christian between Dover and Calais, there is included in the Estimates an additional sum of £100 required to pay for special packets for the conveyance of distinguished persons. Now, as the fare between Dover and Calais is only about 8s., we are curious to know the number of trips made by these exalted personages, and the number of their retinue. In contrast with these charges, two other items from the same vote deserve to be recorded—viz., cost of presents to King Masaba, £2 0s. 4d.; cost of presents to King Peter for care of European Cemetery at River Congo, 12s. 8d. The "Maintenance of Congo Pirate Chief at Ascension, £38 3s.," may also be noted as peculiar.—*Pail Mail Gazette*.

EDUCATION AMONG FACTORY OPERATIVES.—Mr. Daniel Walker, an assistant inspector of factories, in submitting his last half-yearly report to the Home Office, gives some educational statistics respecting young persons employed in factories. From these it appears that of 700 young persons examined in various establishments in Edinburgh and Glasgow, and at Dundee, Newcastle-on-Tyne, Leeds, Rochdale, and Blackburn, 373 can read and write, 100 can only read, and 227 can neither read nor write. An equal number were examined at each city and town, and it was found that Leeds furnished the largest proportion of readers and writers, Edinburgh of those who can only read, and Newcastle-on-Tyne of those who can neither read nor write. These statistics also show that, as to trades, the most ignorant class in Edinburgh appear to be those engaged in tobacco manufactures; in Glasgow, those employed in the pottery trade; at Dundee, in flax and jute spinning and weaving; at Newcastle-on-Tyne, those in the potteries and tobacco manufactures; at Leeds, those in iron-rolling mills; at Rochdale, the cotton spinners and weavers; and at Blackburn, those employed in metal trades.

PUBLIC PRINTING AND STATIONERY.—The vote this Session for public printing and stationery is to be £412,635, being £1134 less than last Session. The Comptroller of the Stationery Office seems to wince as he remarks that ten new commissions of inquiry were appointed in 1868, and that the reports of commissions "constitute a particularly uncertain, fluctuating, and unforeseeable item." He comforts himself a little with the thought that though a new Parliament generally causes a large expense in election inquiries, yet as the jurisdiction in these cases has now been transferred to the Judges of the land, it may be expected that the evidence will be less voluminous than formerly, and that only a small portion of it may be ordered by the House of Commons to be printed. He has to note an advance in the price of paper in 1868, and assumes that the advance will probably continue and augment. The Comptroller presents his balance-sheet for the financial year 1867-8, which will show the real expenditure for that year. The expenditure for stationery, printing, binding, &c., for the various Government departments amounted to £274,945; for Parliamentary printing, £71,750; for the Stationery Office establishment, £20,443, reduced to £17,482 by deduction of commission on supplies furnished to India and the colonies; and £16,693 for Stationery Office publications, reduced by deduction of £10,709, the produce of sales, to £2494; making a total actual charge of £369,101. From this the following sums have to be deducted:—£18,285 for sale of Parliamentary papers and of waste-paper; £20,201 for sale of forms, parchments, &c., by the Inland Revenue Department; £18,921 the net profit on the London, Edinburgh, and Dublin Gazettes; £10,501 from the sale of Ordnance maps and Admiralty charts; and £16,718 for specifications sold at the Patent Office, which items reduce the net cost for the year to £289,475.

BRITISH AND FOREIGN BIBLE SOCIETY.—There was a pretty numerous attendance at St. Paul's Cathedral on Monday afternoon, the occasion being the celebration of the opening of the British and Foreign Bible Society's new premises by an evening service, coupled with appropriate hymns, and a sermon by the Archbishop of Canterbury. The clergy who officiated included the Dean of St. Paul's, Canon Melville, Archdeacon Hale, Prebendaries Marshall, Griffith, Mackenzie, Gibbs, Anriol, and Ven; Minor Canons Coward, Povah, Simpson, and Lupton. The Rev. Mr. Binney, and other dissenting ministers were present, and amongst the laity we observed the Earl of Shaftesbury, Lord Charles Russell, and the Lord Mayor, accompanied by the two Sheriffs. The Archbishop of Canterbury, taking for his text the 6th chapter of the Epistle to the Ephesians, 17th verse, "The sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God," dilated upon the inestimable benefit which the Church of God had enjoyed in the universal agreement amongst all Christians that the Bible was the Word of God. He then referred to the unwearied efforts of the Bible Society in cheapening the price of the Bible, spreading it freely, and encouraging the study of it. Since 1804, when the society was instituted, it had been instrumental in circulating directly more than fifty millions of copies of the Bible, and indirectly ninety-six millions of copies in 129 different languages or dialects. It would be thus seen that work of that kind required a distinct agency apart from missionary and ordinary ecclesiastical societies. Dwelling upon the necessity of the society availing itself of opportunities such as that presented by the Spanish revolution, his Grace said sixty depôts for the sale of the Bible had been established in Spain through its agency. Already one edition of the Bible and two of the New Testament were printed in the Spanish language, while one hundred copies of the Gospel had been printed, and more than half of them had been circulated during the past few months. At the conclusion of the service the collection was made for the building fund of the society.

OBITUARY.

PRINCE MENTCHIKOFF.—Prince Mentchikoff, whose paletot played so important a part in the events of 1853, has just died at St. Petersburg. He was a descendant of the Mentchikoff who, from a pastrycook's boy, rose to be the favourite of Peter the Great and one of the highest dignitaries of the Russian empire. Born in 1789, he entered the army in 1805, went through the campaigns of 1813-15, as Aide-de-Camp to Alexander I., and was sent by the Emperor Nicholas, immediately after his accession, to conclude an alliance with the Shah of Persia against the Sultan. Prince Mentchikoff's rough manners, however, so displeased the Shah that the mission proved a failure. In 1828 he led a division against the Turks in Asia Minor, and captured Anapa. He was severely wounded in the siege of Varna, and, after his recovery, entered the naval service. He became an Admiral in 1834, and Minister of Marine in 1836. In 1853 he was sent to Constantinople to demand of the Sultan on behalf of the Czar the right of protectorate over all the Greek Christians. He appeared before the Divan in an old paletot and muddy boots, and behaved in such an outrageous manner that the Sultan, supported by the Western Powers, dismissed him. His first achievement in the war that followed was the destruction of the Turkish fleet at Sinope. In 1854 he was Governor of the Crimea and Commandant of Sebastopol. He was recalled immediately after the death of the Emperor Nicholas, when the command was given to Prince Gortchakoff. Prince Mentchikoff then retired from the service, but he was very active to the day of his death as the leader of the old Russian Pan Slavist party.

CHIEF JUSTICE LEFROY.—Ex-Chief Justice Lefroy died at Bray, near Dublin, on Tuesday, of bronchitis. The deceased Judge was born in the year 1776. He was the eldest son of the late Mr. Anthony Lefroy, of Carrickglass, who was some time Lieutenant-Colonel in the 9th Dragoons, and who lived till the year 1818. His mother was Anne, daughter of an Irish gentleman named Gardiner. His grandfather, who had settled at Leighorn, was the son of one of those foreign refugees who resided at Canterbury, enjoying the privilege of having their own church and pastors in the crypt of Canterbury Cathedral, under the special protection of the English Crown, and whose industry, as Mr. Smiles tells us, went far to increase our national wealth. Mr. Lefroy himself took his Bachelor's degree at Trinity College as far back as 1796, and proceeded to the degree of M.A. in due course. His call to the Bar of Ireland dates from the year 1797, three years before the Union, of which Mr. O'Connell in his own day, and the Fenians in our own time, have so zealously laboured to effect the "repeal." When he entered on his profession he brought with him the highest University reputation, as he obtained during his undergraduate course at Trinity the four annual prizes and seven certificates, besides the gold medal awarded on taking his degree. Accordingly, he soon obtained a lucrative equity practice, which he retained for many years, without entering upon the more ambitious line of Parliamentary honours. In 1819 we find him a Bench of the King's Inns, and he had already obtained the dignity of a King's Serjeant. This honour, however, he resigned, and in due course was nominated a King's Counsel; but in the House of Commons and in *Hansard* he was generally known by his University distinction of "Doctor" Lefroy. He does not appear to have entered Parliament until after he had attained and wellnigh passed the middle age, having been first chosen in 1830 as one of the representatives of the University of Dublin in the strong Tory interest. Roman Catholic emancipation had been conceded in the previous year, and the Test Act had already been repealed, or else, no doubt, history would have told us how fiercely he opposed both these measures. That he voted against the Reform Bill of 1832, and against Mr. Stanley's measure for pruning and lopping the Irish Established Church of some superfluous bishoprics in the following year; that he consistently opposed the leading measures of Lords Grey and Melbourne, and as zealously supported Sir Robert Peel, whose personal acquaintance he had made some years previously, when that statesman was in Dublin as Chief Secretary for Ireland—these are nearly all the points in his political career which the biographer can record. He always regarded the Reform Act of his own time as a political pestilence; and he could scarcely have entertained any great partiality for that Reform Bill of which he heard in extreme old age that it had been proposed by so sound a Tory as Mr. Disraeli. As a speaker in the House of Commons he succeeded but indifferently; his manner was not attractive, and he knew less of the graces of diction than most of his fellow-countrymen. In the earlier part of his Parliamentary career he spoke frequently, more especially on Irish subjects and against Mr. O'Connell; but his chief success lay in emptying the benches. A strong and decided Tory, and a strenuous opponent of the interests of the Roman Catholics, he was still entitled to the credit of being one of the best-tempered men who ever took a strong line in Parliament. In his public and private character he was always greatly respected; and, high as party politics ran in Ireland thirty years ago, no word of reproach was uttered against Mr. Serjeant Lefroy. He sat for the University of Dublin as the colleague of the Right Hon. Frederic Shaw down to the year 1841. When Sir Robert Peel returned a second time to place and power, it was not to be expected that the claims of Serjeant Lefroy would be overlooked, and no time was lost in appointing him to the first vacancy on the Irish Bench as one of the Barons of the Exchequer, whence he was promoted in 1852 by Lord Derby to the post of Lord Chief Justice of the Queen's Bench, from which he always resolved that neither ill-health nor failing years should force him as long as the Liberals were in power. Accordingly, he continued to take his seat on the bench and to hear causes until his ninetieth year, when the return of Lord Derby to office gave him the opportunity of gracefully resigning his post, to be filled by Mr. Whitehead, a younger—we can scarcely say more vigorous—Tory. Judge Lefroy was the author of some "Reports in the Irish Court of Chancery Under Lord Redesdale," and also of an Irish law pamphlet, published so long ago as 1802, on "Proceedings by Elegit, in which the Effect of a Late Decision is Considered and a New Method of Proceeding is Proposed." But the pamphlet and the occasion which called it forth have passed away out of the memory of living lawyers. He married, in 1799, Mary, the only daughter and heiress of Mr. Jeffrey Paul, of Silver Spring, in the county of Wexford, by whom he had three daughters, and also four sons, of whom the eldest, Mr. Anthony Lefroy, has been M.P. for the University of Dublin for the last ten years, and previously represented the county of Longford in Parliament. He is married to a daughter of the late Lord Longford, and granddaughter of Robert, late Earl of Kingston.

SIR THOMAS MARYON WILSON.—Sir Thomas Maryon Wilson, whose name will be familiar as lord of the manor of Hampstead-heath, died at Shoreham, on Tuesday night, at the age of sixty-nine. As Colonel of the West Kent Militia, he had attended the annual training at Shorncliffe, but his health had been failing for some time previously. The deceased Baronet, who was unmarried, is succeeded by his nephew, Sir John Wilson, of Prittlewell, Essex.

REFORMATORY SCHOOLS IN IRELAND.—Reformatory schools are among the charities interested in the surplus from the Irish Church funds, and a return relating to these schools has been made to the House of Commons in pursuance of a motion of Sir T. Bateson. The return, made up to the close of the year 1868, shows that there are nine reformatory schools in Ireland—one at Cork, for Roman Catholic boys, containing 172 juvenile offenders; one at Glencree, Wicklow, for Roman Catholic boys, containing 307; one at Malone, Belfast, for Protestant boys, containing 64; one at Dublin, for Protestant boys, containing 31; four for Roman Catholic girls—viz., one at Drumcondra, containing 48; one at Limerick, 35; one at Spark's Lake, Monaghan, 42; and one at Balinsalee, 16; and one in Dublin, for Protestant girls, containing 11. The totals of these numbers are 574 boys and 182 girls. The sum of 2s. per head per week is paid by the grand juries for the children sent from their respective counties to reformatory schools. The managers of the male Roman Catholic reformatory schools are ecclesiastics of religious orders, and the managers of the female Roman Catholic schools are members of conventual institutions.

POLICE.

IMPORTANT TO MASTERS AND SERVANTS.—At the Mansion House, on Monday, Mr. William Hughes, a dining-room keeper in the Minorities, appeared before the Lord Mayor on a summons charging him with unlawfully detaining a letter. The complainant was Caroline Hollings, a servant, who said she had been in the employment of the defendant a few weeks, and that, about a fortnight ago, wishing to leave, she inserted an advertisement in a newspaper, in which she gave the initials "C. H. D.," and the address of her master as the place where letters might be sent. On Tuesday last she saw a postman deliver a letter with those initials, which was at once seized by the defendant, to whom she then explained how the matter stood. He was very indignant, and, making use of offensive language, ordered her to leave the house that day, which she did. He opened the letter, and had since refused to give it up to her, and she now complained that she had been prevented by his conduct from getting a situation. In answer to the Lord Mayor, the defendant, who handed in the letter, which he acknowledged that he had opened, explained that he considered it a great liberty for a servant to use his address without his consent, especially as to letters with initials, the receipt of which, he said, had never been allowed by him even on the application of customers. He also complained that he had been subject to much insolence from the complainant, and that only was the reason for her discharge. He denied using bad language to her. The Lord Mayor said the defendant had misunderstood the law, which gave a person a right to receive at the address where he or she happened to reside any letters addressed in any way. He also thought it wrong for him to have opened the letter, which he might have returned to the postman if he had felt aggrieved. He ordered the defendant to pay the complainant 4s. 6d., being 2s. 6d. for her loss of time in recovering her property, and 2s. the cost of the summons. The defendant paid the money, and the letter was handed to the complainant.

THE ISLINGTON SUNDAY ROUGHS.—At Clerkenwell, on Monday, Robert Simpson, sixteen, labourer, 26, Upper Pembroke-street; James Giddings, fifteen, factory boy, 31, Upper Pembroke-street; Robert Jones, fourteen, ironfounder, 2, Upper Gifford-street; Henry Offer, fourteen, ironworker, 27, Gifford-street; and Henry Read, fifteen, carter, of 67, Upper Bemerton-street, were charged before Mr. Cooke with disorderly conduct and annoying foot-passengers in Upper-street, Islington. Inspector Rutt, N. division, watched the case on behalf of the Commissioners of Police. On Sunday night, about a quarter to nine, the Upper-street, Islington, was crowded, and the defendants, who formed part of a gang of disorderly boys, pushed against every respectable woman that passed. Near the corner of White Lion-street the defendants pulled some women into the road, and behaved in a very indecent manner. They were cautioned, but took no notice of what was said. The defendants did not deny the charge, but said they did not think they were doing wrong. Mr. E. W. Freestone, of Upper-street, Islington, who was accompanied by Messrs. Jones, Bradin, Reid, Smith, and Thurston, said the conduct of boys like the defendants on Sunday evening in Upper-street was very disgraceful. He had seen Simpson and Giddings frequently on the pavement, and had seen them annoy and insult elderly women. Mr. Cooke said it was a very great nuisance, and agreed with the inhabitants that it was very hard they should be so insulted. The conduct of Simpson, Giddings, and Read was shown to be the worst, and he should mark his sense of their conduct by sentencing them to pay a fine of 6s. each, or, in default, to undergo five days' imprisonment. The other defendants would be fined 2s. 6d. each, or, in default, undergo one day's imprisonment.

ALLEGED ROBBERY BY A CUSTOMS OFFICER.—Michael McCoy, an outdoor officer of her Majesty's Customs, was on Monday placed at the bar before Mr. Partridge, at Southwark, charged with stealing a quantity of tea from the bonded warehouses at Hayes Wharf, Tooley-street, the property of Messrs. Humphreys, Magniac, and Co., wharfingers. Joseph Shain, a gatekeeper at Hayes Wharf, said that a little after four on Saturday afternoon he locked up the iron gate leading to the tea-floors, and shortly afterwards he saw the Customs locks put on, and everybody appeared to have left the place. About an hour afterwards he received information that some one was in the tea-warehouses. He instantly went to the office of Mr. Cooper, the Customs superintendent, and they returned, when the locks were taken off. They both entered and searched all the floors, and at last they met the prisoner on the third floor, endeavouring to make his way down. Witness asked him how he got there, when he seemed very much confused, and replied that he did not know. While they were going down stairs witness felt something in his great-coat pockets, and asked what he had there. He replied "Nothing," and objected to be searched. He, however, searched the coat, and in the pockets found a pound and a quarter of tea, loose. Witness asked him how he came to have it in his possession, when he said he had been asleep on the tea, and he could not account for its being in his pockets. In answer to Mr. Partridge, witness said he knew the prisoner to be an outdoor officer of the Customs, but he was not aware whether he had been attending the tea-floors. They had been bulking tea that day, and it was necessary Customs officers should be present. Witness added that it was not customary to search such officers; but it was the rule to search everyone found locked in after the Customs authorities left, consequently he thought it his duty to search the prisoner. Mr. Partridge committed him for trial, and agreed to accept two sureties in £100 each for his appearance at the sessions; but, these not being forthcoming, he was committed to Horse-monger-lane Gaol.

AN OUTRAGEOUS PAPER.—At the Thames Police Court, on Tuesday, Thomas Ash, an Army pensioner, aged thirty-two, was brought before Mr. Benson, charged with violently assaulting Thomas George Burton, an assistant relieving officer of the Poplar Union, in the Towpath,

Poplar. Mr. Charles Young, solicitor, conducted the prosecution for the guardians of the Union. It appeared from the evidence of Mr. Burton, whose left cheek was torn and bruised, that the prisoner had an Army pension of 5s. 4d. a week. He had been often relieved, and was always dissatisfied. That afternoon he was again before the board, and the guardians decided that he should no longer be relieved out of the Union-house, and gave him an order for himself and child to go into the workhouse. The prisoner immediately threw the order at the guardians, and raved and swore loudly. He was requested to withdraw, which he refused to do, and, on an attempt to remove him, he made a violent and determined resistance, defying the whole board and striking officers to eject him from the room. In the scuffle four or five persons were injured. At length Mr. Burton seized him by the wrists, and, with the help of others, got him out. He renewed his violence outside, and commenced kicking and striking at everyone within his reach. He kicked Mr. Burton on the leg and then grasped him by the throat, compressed it, and attempted to choke him. Others pulled him away, and he knocked or pushed down and dealt severe blows to seven or eight men. He then sprang upon Mr. Burton, seized his left cheek with his hand, tore it, and effected considerable injury. At last, by a united effort, his legs were tied, and a strait-jacket and gloves used for insane paupers were placed on him, and in this state he was conveyed to the station-house. Mr. Burton, in answer to the magistrate, said he was in very great pain, and could scarcely stand upright. The prisoner's pension would have been taken from him and applied towards his maintenance if he were admitted into the house. The statement of Mr. Burton being confirmed, the prisoner, who pretended to be deaf, said he wanted to go into the stoneyard and receive outdoor relief. Mr. Benson said the guardians had a right to relieve him in any way they pleased. For the assault he was sentenced to one month's imprisonment and hard labour.

IMPORTANT DECISION AS TO RAILWAY COMPENSATIONS.—At Westminster, on Wednesday, Mr. Arnold gave judgment in a claim for compensation against the Metropolitan District Railway Company, at the instance of Joseph Patterson, the occupier as a yearly tenant of a house, No. 5, Broadway, where he carries on the business of a beer retailer. The prosecutor claimed damages for injury done to his business by the entrance to his premises being obstructed by the operations of the railway company, his chief allegations not being denied. In his judgment Mr. Arnold said the case had only been part heard, as the defendants relied on the case "Ricketts v. the Metropolitan Railway Company," in the House of Lords, to show that under the circumstances the complainant was not entitled to any compensation. The House of Lords there laid down some broad principles, which undoubtedly governed the case. It was there held that the temporary obstruction of the highway which prevented the free passage of persons along it, and so incidentally interrupted the access to the plaintiff's house as it was not the subject of an action at common law, not being an individual injury sustained by the plaintiff, distinguished from that of the rest of the public, the case was not brought within the general principle on which a claim to compensation depended; and it was further laid down as a principle that the injury to found such a claim must be an actual injury to the land itself, as by loosening the foundations of buildings on it, obstructing its light or drains, making it inaccessible by lowering or raising the ground immediately in front of it, or by some such physical deterioration. This decision of the highest tribunal in the kingdom was, in fact, the decision of two Law Lords (Lord Chancellor Chelmsford and Lord Cranworth), the only other Law Lord who was present (Lord Westbury) differing from his two learned colleagues, and giving reasons for his opinions, which, but that they are overruled in number, were to Mr. Arnold most satisfactory and conclusive. The decision of the majority, however, was, of course, binding on every other tribunal, though it might seem a startling one, for it went to this length—that in the progress of the works of an authorised railway—an undertaking, no doubt, in one sense, for the public advantage, but in another as indisputably for the benefit of private persons—if the slightest injury is done to land, if a yard of it is taken or a few bricks of a building are removed, the owner was entitled to compensation. But if the owner was only disturbed in the prosecution of his business, though in consequence thereof he might sustain great loss, though his means of living might be seriously diminished, though he and his family might be reduced to beggary or the workhouse, he had no claim to compensation or redress; for the law did not admit that he had sustained any injury. As such was declared to be the law, he was bound to act on it; and therefore, although with great regret, and he would even say with great sympathy for the complainant, he was compelled to dismiss the summons.

THEATRICAL COMMISSIONS.—The case of "Corbyn v. Bandmann" was before Mr. Justice Byles and a common jury on Monday. The plaintiff was a theatrical agent, and the defendant was an actor, who came to this country from America in 1867. The plaintiff procured him an engagement with Mr. E. T. Smith, of the Lyceum Theatre; and the present action was to recover between £50 and £60 for commission. The plaintiff's case was that the defendant was extremely anxious to obtain a London engagement before his return to America, and that the plaintiff introduced him to Mr. Smith, and an agreement was entered into, on Sept. 19, 1867, that the defendant should perform in "Narcisse" twenty-four nights without salary; and if the piece were played afterwards, then he was to have £60 a week during the season of 1868. A further condition was that if "Narcisse" were so successful as to induce Mr. Smith to take a provincial tour, the plaintiff was then to have half profits. There was also a written agreement between the plaintiff and defendant in these terms—"Sept. 23, 1867. For and in consideration of services rendered, I hereby agree to pay to the order of Sheridan Corbyn 15 per cent on all moneys received by me from Mr. E. T. Smith or his agents during my engagements with him in

Great Britain, after deducting necessary expenses attending said engagements." There was also an agreement between the defendant and Mr. Smith entered into on March 7, 1868; and the defendant played for a time under this agreement. Another circumstance in the case was that the plaintiff had already sued the defendant, and at the last summer assizes at Guildford had recovered a verdict for £51 15s. The present action was to recover for commission due under the second agreement with Mr. Smith. It was now contended that the defendant's obligation to pay commission had been fully satisfied by the verdict recovered at Guildford, and that there was no consideration upon which to found any claim for commission in reference to the last agreement with Mr. Smith. Mr. Justice Byles (after hearing counsel) held that the consideration in the plaintiff's agreement was exhausted by the first agreement with Mr. Smith, and he directed a nonsuit, but gave the plaintiff leave to move to enter a verdict for himself for £35, a sum which had been calculated upon the payments spoken to by Mr. Smith. His Lordship added that he would advise the parties to come to some settlement rather than have the questions of law argued. Mr. Pearce (for the plaintiff) said that he was willing to leave the whole matter to be settled by Mr. Smith. Mr. Justice Byles: There could not be a fairer man.

THE CASE OF MADAME RACHEL.—Madame Rachel's appeal against her conviction at the Old Bailey was argued in the Court of Queen's Bench last Saturday. The question raised depended entirely upon the construction to be placed upon the Act defining the constitution of the Central Criminal Court; and of the three pleas urged on the prisoner's behalf the principal one was whether the same two Judges should not sit throughout a trial. The "Judges" included the Aldermen of the City who were named in the Commission; and it appeared that, during the three days' trial of Madame Rachel, although Mr. Commissioner Kerr presided throughout, the Aldermen in attendance varied every day. Madame Rachel's counsel contended that the object of the Legislature was to ensure the presence of the same two Judges through the whole of the hearing; while the Solicitor-General, in support of the conviction, argued that, when once a Court was constituted, it was impossible to distinguish between its several members, for each person was clothed with the authority of the whole. Upon this point the Court reserved judgment; and decided, with respect to one of the others, that there was no question as to the legality of Mr. Commissioner Kerr's position as a Judge at the Old Bailey.

DISGRACEFUL SCENE IN A CHURCHYARD.—A most disgraceful occurrence took place on Sunday afternoon, in Cradley churchyard. It appears that it has been the practice of the sexton (Mr. Charlton) to demand the burial fees before the interment of a corpse. On Sunday afternoon a man named Walker brought the body of his mother for interment, and upon being asked for the fees refused to pay them until the corpse had been buried. Mr. Charlton at once shut the gates, and refused the corpse admittance. Seeing the state of affairs, Mr. Walker sent for a policeman, who quickly appeared on the spot, accompanied by a concourse of roughs, who had gained a knowledge of the proceedings. The gate was thrown open, and the funeral proceeded towards the church door, but here Mr. Charlton was determined to make a stand, and placed the bier before the door to stop their progress. When the funeral procession reached the door another scene occurred. Mr. Charlton first denied the parties admittance; but, upon their advance, collared the coffin, and a hand-to-hand fight took place. The bier was broken to pieces, and ultimately the mob succeeded in forcing both Charlton and the coffin into the church amidst tremendous uproar. Divine service was at the time being performed, and the clergyman was in the middle of his sermon. This interruption, as may be imagined, caused a great sensation. Many of the ladies in the congregation fainted, and others rushed screaming to the communion-table, and such a tumult ensued as is difficult to describe. Charlton was knocked about, and, upon taking refuge in a pew, was followed, the pew broken, and he received several kicks. The Rev. D. Sheddon, the officiating minister, endeavoured to restore order, and proceeded to bury the corpse. The burial service was gone through without interruption, and the clergyman was officiating in another part of the churchyard, when Mr. Charlton's eldest son went up to Mrs. Walker's grave and said that if he had been there before she should not have been buried. This so infuriated the mob that they at once seized him and forced him into the grave, and nearly covered him with soil, being loudly cheered by the spectators. Just upon this Mr. Charlton came to the spot, and he also was thrown into the grave, and would soon have been smothered had not the police again appeared on the scene and charged the mob. As it was, both Mr. Charlton and his son were in a very exhausted condition, and were glad to be placed in concealment.—*Western Daily News.*

THE DERRY RIOTS.—It was elicited during the inquest at Derry on the bodies of the men shot during the recent riot that twelve of the constabulary were one round each short of their ammunition when examined immediately after the affray. These men have been placed under arrest, at the instance of the solicitor for the friends of the deceased. One witness deposed that stones were thrown from the Protestant side to Butcher's gate, and that the conduct of the constabulary rather, in his opinion, tended to create a panic. An "Apprentice Boy" denied that the people attacked the police. The governor of the apprentice boys said he had been himself armed with a revolver since the day of the last election; "his life had been threatened frequently." He pleaded with the "Boys" to leave Butcher's gate on the night of the riot, but they complained that they were not armed well enough; "they had not thought there would be occasion for arms." Mr. Thompson, J.P., said that he was very angry with the constabulary for firing. Mr. Watson deposed that there were seven or eight shots fired. Distressing cries of murder were raised. He could not give any opinion as to the habit of young men carrying pistols in Derry during the last year or so. The verdict (which was given after three hours' deliberation) was the following:—"We find that

the deceased, Johnston Moncrieff, came to his death, on Wednesday evening, through a gunshot wound, inflicted by a bullet fired by the constabulary, and that the authorities were to blame for not exercising sufficient precaution to preserve the peace of the town. We also believe the constabulary received much ill-treatment at different times during the evening, that they received provocation in the Diamond, yet we believe they were not justified in firing without giving the crowd sufficient warning." An open verdict was returned as to Craig, the other deceased. It is very doubtful whether another of the wounded men, Murphy, will recover.

HEROIC CONDUCT OF A BOY.—The Royal Humane Society has recently determined to add a clasp in future to their silver medallion in cases in which the latter has been already awarded for saving life, where the recipient a second time risks his own life in saving others. The first of these clasps has just been conferred on a boy, named Joseph Blacker, of her Majesty's training-ship Nelson, who, though only fourteen years of age, was successful in saving three lives during a period of little more than six months. The first occasion was in January, 1868, when Blacker jumped overboard to save the life of a child in Hobson's Bay. On the second occasion, in the following month, he saved a boy named Robert Ellison, assisted by a man named Kennedy (who received the vellum testimonial of the Royal Humane Society). For these two acts he was presented with the silver medallion of the society. The third act, for which the clasp has just been conferred, was in July last, and occurred under the following circumstances:—While the ship was in Australia, the captain had given some of the boys leave of absence to see their friends in Melbourne, and they proceeded to Sandridge in a steamer. In jumping ashore one of them, named William Tollett, missed his footing and fell between the steamer and the pier. The steamer was backing astern at the time from the pier, and the "backwater" of the paddles sent the boy round the bow. Blacker, who was then walking up the pier, hearing the cry of "Boy overboard!" ran back and jumped off the pier, and seized the boy, who could not swim. A waterman who was at hand, held out a mop-handle to Blacker who grasped it, still retaining his hold of Tollett, and by this means the two boys were got into the boat. Tollett had clung to Blacker with such tenacity while in the water that by the time they were rescued the latter was all but exhausted.

THE LONDON GAZETTE.

FRIDAY, APRIL 30.
BANKRUPTCY ANNULLED.—W. QUIXLEY, Lambeth—J. T. HOPKINSON, Newington-cumsey, sawmaker—M. MILLER, White-street, estate agent.
BANKRUPT.—F. S. SELL, Peckham—W. COLLISON, Dunstable "straw-bonnet blocker"—Z. DEEBLEY, Arncott, wheelwright—H. ABELL, Whitechurch, innkeeper—N. DANIELS, Kensington—E. B. LOMBS, Chelsea, baker—M. GILES, St. George's East, baker—H. THORNTON, Mile End-road, baker—S. HOPESON, Moorgate-street, auctioneer—E. C. NORTHOTT, Morden, farmer—V. SIMONS, Pentonville, bonnet-maker—W. BUCHMORE, Barnet—H. LLOYD, Notting-hill, ironmonger—J. SINGLAIK, Islington—J. W. L. LACKY, Dover, baker—H. E. LACKY, Berners-street, of the Royal Alfred Theatre—A. W. COTTELL, Greenwich, tailor—J. V. B. THOMPSON, Woolwich, engineer—A. DABBS and J. A. CLARK, Oxford-street, importers of foreign goods—E. CHAT, Hastings, butcher—W. T. PERKY, Hutton-cum-green, greengrocer—T. OMERING, Mile-end-road, ironfounder—J. H. POLLARD, Worcester, butcher—A. BOWRING, Tisbury, greengrocer—J. HEWITT, Silverdale, grocer—J. P. SMITH, Wolverhampton, engineer—C. REEVES, Birmingham, sword-cutter—H. HOWELL, Shrewsbury, tailor—G. D. HADDING, Ripley, surgeon—J. P. JONES, Newport, Monmouthshire, draper—B. PARCELL, Pontypool, licensed victualler—H. THORPE, Swansea, secretary to the Swansea Zinc Company—G. COLE, Glaston, grocer—H. COUNSELL, Pontypool, contractor—E. DELFRANSE, Chard, tator—J. B. CROSS, Taunton—J. SMITH, Halifax, ass manufacturer—J. SCHOLEFIELD and J. STAFFORD, Oswest, cloth manufacturer—J. JOHNSON, Leeds, grocer—R. P. PARKER, Leeds, provision merchant—T. H. BISH, New-castle-on-Tyne, general merchant—A. DICKSON, Wakefield, boot and shoe dealer—J. ELLIS, Oswest, cloth manufacturer—J. BURNLEY, jun., and W. HAMMOND, Batley, Carr, wool merchants—H. ROSE, Sheffield, draper—E. JONES, Mold, saddler—C. WEAVER, Walsby, painter—G. N. BAINBRIDGE, Liverpool, auctioneer—S. RICKETTS, Liverpool—H. MERCER, Blackburn, grocer—T. DOWNE, Newbiggen-by-the-Sea, tailor—T. M. HURFALL, Walsby, clerk in holy orders—C. SMITH, Newcastle-on-Tyne, provision merchant—T. H. BISH, New-castle-on-Tyne, general merchant—E. OWEN, Wistanow, innkeeper—T. CHAPMAN, Dawley, grocer—P. O'NEILL, Aberavon, licensed victualler—J. P. REES, Fendery, grocer—J. WOOLF, Skelton, miller—G. HOYLE, Bawtry, machine-maker—C. CLOUTIER, Bath, lodger—house keeper—J. DALES, Bath, p. Anckland, slater—J. W. JONES, Llangollen, chemist—T. ELSTWORTH, Carlisle, commercial traveller—J. E. THOMAS, Newport, Monmouthshire, draper—J. JILSON, Brynaryd, J. STABUCK, Barlestone, butcher—H. LOUGHTON, Droitwich—W. TAYLOR, Wolverhampton, boatman—J. COOPER, Handsworth, coachman—C. GORDON, Liverpool, boot and shoe maker—J. SHORT, Liverpool, weighing—J. MURPHY, E. MCVILL, Liverpool, cork-cutter—H. OTTEWELL, Derby, painter—E. BEECROFT, Derby—J. GILL, Bradford, tailor—J. SHARP, Bradford, wooldealer—J. REAY, Walsall, buckle-maker—E. BACKHOUSE, Leeds, painter—J. LYONS, Ainsford, publican—R. WHITEHEAD, Nottingham, lace-maker—C. STEVENSON, Norton, coach-builder—H. CROSS, Stone, publican—J. MINTO, Uwerth, Durham, grocer—W. MERCER, Harleston, saddler—C. PEACH, Tinsell, carpenter—H. THOMSON, jun., Sunderland, attorney—J. BURTON, Burton-on-Trent—C. MEDLEY, Stockton, shoemaker—J. COATES, Burton-on-Trent, confectioner—T. SIMPSON, Darlington, hair-dresser—T. F. HINDS, Sittingbourne—E. FELIX, Swansea, butcher—W. JAKINS, Lazen, butcher—J. DENNIS, Grantham, bootshop-keeper—W. COLLIER, Sheffield, labourer—E. JOHN, Swansea, grocer—J. GREGG, Bishop Auckland, dealer in glass—B. DYKE, Stroud, tailor.

TUESDAY, MAY 4.
BANKRUPT.—W. ARTHUR, Kington-road, surgeon—J. BARNALL, Holloway, bootmaker—W. BATES, Richmond, carman—C. BROADBRIDGE, Hampstead-road, surveyor—H. J. BBAHAM, Cannon-street, rag merchant—J. BUCKNALL, Clerkenwell, dealer—C. BURRILL, Wood-green, commission agent—W. COLTMAN, King'sland, china-dealer—J. M. DALTYE, Park-street, Grosvenor-square—E. DAVIES, Peckham, general shop-keeper—E. CRAMER, Chesham, general warehouse—J. DINGLEY, Camberwell New-road, coal merchant—J. GILL, Ilford, victualler's manager—J. GILLINGS and J. TUBBY, Great Yarmouth, builders—M. A. GUY, Hoxton, boarding-house keeper—H. HARRISON, M. W. SPATLEY, and T. RALPH, Southwark Bridge-road, newspaper proprietors—J. HIND, Sandy, farmer—J. J. HORSNELL, Seven Sisters-road, hairdresser—J. HOY, Battersea, clothier—G. J. HUTCHINSON, Islington, bootmaker—T. B. IDEN, Battersea, builder—H. S. LAMB, Oxford-street, victualler—H. J. LISTER, West Smithfield, tailor—F. H. P. MACKINTOSH, Haymarket, merchant—J. MILLER, Waltham Abbey, bootmaker—J. J. PERKY, Seven-dial, hawker—L. ROGERS, jun., Camden Town, boot manufacturer—A. SCHMIDT, Charlotte-street, Fitzroy-square, cabinetmaker—T. SIMMONS, Fiddling-up, upholsterer—J. SIMS, Finsbury, sailing-house keeper—J. SPENCER, St. Pancras, watchmaker—C. D. WATKINS, Islington, grocer—A. TALLEY, Lower East Smithfield, clerk—J. WATTS, Poplar, hat manufacturer—E. WOOD, Old Kent-road, butcher—J. WOZHAM, Ewell, miller—J. DALBY, Reckleshill, beer-seller—A. ALFORD, Landport, confectioner—W. G. BAKER, Stourbridge, grocer—J. CHADWICK, Huncote, victualler—H. ELLIS, Rortside-by-Sea, builder—A. J. COOPER, Downham, general-shop keeper—J. CUTHBERTON, Trindon Colliery, grocer—T. H. DRINKWATER, Levenshulme, draper—T. FOSTER, Sheffield, beer retailer—J. F. GLOYN, Manchester, agent—T. GOFF, Windermere, painter—J. GRAINGER, Handsworth, beerhouse-keeper—M. B. A. HAINES, Oldbury, licensed victualler—J. HARVEY, jun., Bristol, builder—J. C. HAWKEY, Newquay, blacksmith—W. H. HERBERT, Liverpool, photographer—J. HORTON, Lonsdale, Birmingham, general commission agent—F. E. KERR, Evercross, surgeon—B. KENDALL, Saltney, publican—G. KERSHAW, West-bromwich, tailor—W. KETTERINGHAM, Newtown, huckster—F. LLOYD, Liverpool, builder—J. LOCKETT, Hanley, brickmaker—D. MARSH, E. Anne, butcher—H. MERCER, Oswest, stone-mason—J. M. ROSE, Liverpool, draper—B. W. MOSS, Porcose, outfitter—W. REDDING, Worcester, blacksmith—T. ROBERTS, Brynmawr, victualler—W. C. ROBINSON, Titchmarsh, grocer—B. SHAW, East-pool, innkeeper—J. SHELLEY, Wolverhampton, charcoal merchant—W. SMITH, Briscley-hill, blacksmith—E. S. STEAR, Kingsbridge, innkeeper—H. E. STANLEY, Redditch, needle manufacturer—W. WARD, Birmingham, commission agent—W. TOM INS, Birmingham, goldbeater—H. THOMPSON, Ha-sten, bootmaker—E. WARRIS, Birmingham, bootmaker—M. J. WHINUP, Manchester, stuff merchant—E. ELLIOTT, Kibbure, general agent—J. FARRER, sen., Northampton, stocking-house keeper.

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Gros de Suez Silks, from 2 2 0
Japanese Silks, from 1 10 0
Spitalfields Silks, from 1 15 6
Lyons Silks, from 1 18 6
Indian Silks, from 1 19 6
Chinese Silks, from 1 10 0
Swiss Silks, from 1 5 6
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